



Page 13

Trump ups his attacks with Mueller report due Thursday

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president isn't waiting.

As Washington counts down the final hours until publication of the redacted special counsel report — now expected Thursday — Donald Trump stepped up his attacks Monday in an effort to undermine potential disclosures on Russia, his 2016 campaign and the aftermath.

He unleashed a series of tweets focusing on the previously released summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's conclusions — including a crucial one on obstruction of justice that Trump again misrepresented — produced by Attorney General William Barr.

"Mueller, and the A.G. based on Mueller findings (and great intelligence), have already ruled No Collusion, No Obstruction,"

Trump tweeted.

"These were crimes committed by Crooked Hillary, the DNC, Dirty Cops and others! INVESTIGATE



Attorney General William Barr leaves his home in McLean, Va., on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press

THE INVESTIGATORS!" Press Secretary Sarah Sanders repeatedly tried to make the same case on TV talk shows on Sunday. Democrats are

calling for Mueller himself to testify before Congress and have expressed concern that Barr will order unnecessary censoring of the

report to protect the president. The House Judiciary Committee, led by Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York, is poised to try to compel Barr

to turn over an unredacted copy as well as the report's underlying investigative files.

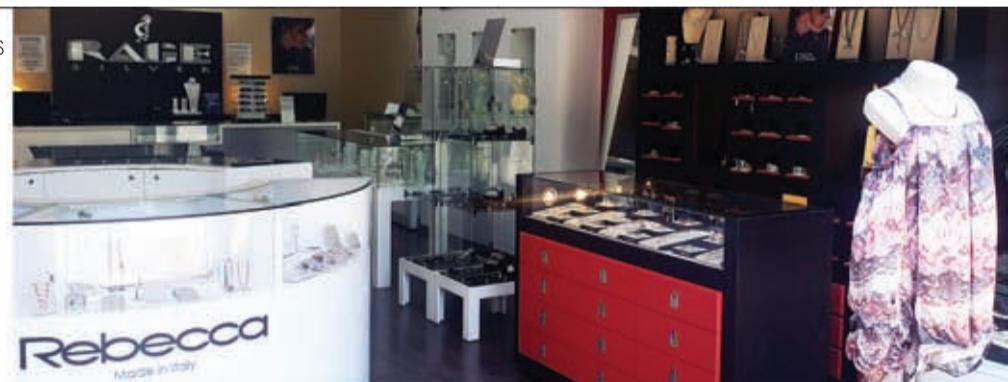
Continued on Page 4



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Trump to allow lawsuits over U.S. properties seized in Cuba

By DEB RIECHMANN and
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stepping up pressure on Cuba, the Trump administration will allow lawsuits against foreign companies doing business in properties seized from Americans after the island's 1959 revolution, a senior administration official said Tuesday.

The move marks a change in more than two decades of U.S. policy on Cuba.

President Donald Trump has been taking steps to isolate embattled Ven-

ezuela President Nicolas Maduro, who is holding power with help from other countries, including Cuba, China and Russia. The new policy against Havana could deal a severe blow to Cuba's efforts to draw foreign investment, and spawn international trade disputes between the U.S. and Europe.

The administration official who provided details of the shift spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the official announcement by the State Department.

After that announcement,



In this Feb. 18, 2019, file photo, national security adviser John Bolton speaks to the Venezuelan American community in Miami.

Associated Press

national security adviser John Bolton is expected to discuss the new policy during a speech Wednesday in Miami, which is home to thousands of exiles and immigrants from Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The speech at the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association is to be delivered on the 58th anniversary of the United States' failed 1961 invasion of the island, an attempt to overthrow the Cuban government.

Johana Tablada, Cuba's deputy director of U.S. affairs, said on Twitter: "Before they try to euphorically ride a wave of wickedness and lies, they should take a dose of reality. The world has told John Bolton and the U.S. government to eliminate the criminal blockade against Cuba and the Helms-Burton Act." The 1996 act gave Americans the right to sue the mostly European companies that operate out of hotels, tobacco factories, distilleries and other properties that Cuba nationalized after Fidel Castro took

the key clause to avoid those trade clashes and a potential mass of lawsuits that would prevent any future settlement with Cuba over nationalized properties. Cuba has said it is willing to reimburse the owners of confiscated properties, but only if the communist government is also reimbursed for billions of dollars in damages generated by the six-decade U.S. trade embargo.

The announcement comes at a moment of severe economic weakness for Cuba, which is struggling to find enough cash to import basic food and other supplies following a drop in aid from Venezuela, and a string of bad years in other key economic sectors.

Foreign investment in Cuba increased slightly in recent years, but it remains far below the levels needed to recapitalize the island's dilapidated, often collapsing infrastructure. The Trump administration's decision is not expected to drive out major foreign players like Pernod-Ricard of France, which makes Havana Club rum, or Spanish hotel chains Melia or Iberostar, but it could prove a major obstacle to new investment from foreign companies.

"It will harm prospective investment in Cuba. It will not cause people who are invested in Cuba already to pull out now," said Phil Peters, director of the Arlington, Virginia-based Cuba Research Center, who advocated for closer relations with Cuba and has consulted for U.S. companies looking to invest. □

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Trump ups his attacks with Mueller report due Thursday

Continued from Front

The Justice Department announced Monday that it expects to release the redacted version Thursday morning, sending the findings of the nearly two-year probe to Congress and making them available to the public.

Mueller officially concluded his investigation late last month and submitted the confidential report to Barr. Two days later, the attorney general sent Congress a four-page letter that detailed Mueller's "principal conclusions."

In his letter, Barr said the special counsel did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump associates during the campaign. However, contrary to



Attorney General William Barr leaves his home in McLean, Va., on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Trump's false claim, Mueller did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Instead, Mueller presented evidence on both sides of that question. Barr said he did not believe

the evidence was sufficient to prove that Trump had obstructed justice, but he noted that Mueller's team did not exonerate the president. Portions of the report being released by the Justice

Department will be redacted to protect grand jury material, sensitive intelligence, matters that could affect ongoing investigations and damage to the privacy rights of third parties, the attorney general has said. The scores of outstanding questions about the investigation have not stopped the president and his allies from declaring victory. They have painted House Democrats' investigations as partisan overreach and have targeted news outlets and individual reporters they say have promoted the collusion story. The president himself seethed at a political rally that the whole thing was an attempt "to tear up the fabric of our great democracy."

He has told confidants in recent days that he was certain the full report would back up his claims of vindication but was also convinced the media would manipulate the findings in an effort to damage him, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations. In the waiting game's final days, the White House continued to try to shape the narrative. "There was no obstruction, which I don't how you can interpret that any other way than total exoneration," press secretary Sanders said on "Fox News Sunday." While the president unleashed his personal grievances, his team seized on any exculpatory information in Barr's letter, hoping to define the conversation in advance, according to White House officials and outside advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private deliberations. The victory lap was deliberately premature, they said. But Trump's inner circle knows there will likely be further releases of embarrassing or politically damaging information. Barr's letter, for instance, hinted that there would be at least one unknown action by the president that Mueller examined as a possible act of obstruction. A number of White House aides have privately said they are eager for all Russia stories, good or bad, to fade from the headlines. And there is fear among some presidential confidants that the rush to spike the football in celebration could backfire if bombshell new information emerges. "The Mueller Report, which was written by 18 Angry Democrats who also happen to be Trump Haters (and Clinton Supporters), should have focused on the people who SPIED on my 2016 Campaign, and others who fabricated the whole Russia Hoax. That is, never forget, the crime." Trump tweeted Monday. Barr may have been referring to a surveillance warrant the FBI obtained in the fall of 2016 to monitor the communications of former Trump campaign aide Carter Page, who has not been charged with any wrongdoing. The warrant was obtained after Page had left the campaign and was renewed several times. Critics of the Russia investigation have seized on the fact that the warrant application cited Democratic-funded opposition research, done by a former British spy, into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia. Barr later softened his tone to "I am not saying improper surveillance occurred." □

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U.S. wants to build more tents at border to detain migrants

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
and CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP)—The Trump administration wants to open two new tent facilities to temporarily detain up to 1,000 parents and children near the southern border, as advocates sharply criticize the conditions inside the tents already used to hold migrants.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a notice to potential contractors that it wants to house 500 people in each camp in El Paso, Texas, and in the South Texas city of Donna, which has a border crossing with Mexico.

Each facility would consist of one large tent that could be divided into sections by gender and between families and children traveling alone, according to the notice. Detainees would sleep on mats. There would also be laundry facilities, showers, and an "additional fenced-in area" for "outside exercise/recreation." The notice says the facilities could open in the next two weeks and operate through year end, with a cost that could reach \$37 million. But the agency has said its resources are strained by the sharp rise in the numbers of parents and children crossing the border and requesting asylum. It made 53,000 apprehensions in March of parents and children traveling together, most of whom say they are fleeing violence and poverty in Central America. Many ultimately request asylum under U.S. and international law.

In a statement Tuesday, CBP said it urgently needed additional space for detention and processing. "CBP is committed to finding solutions that address the current border security and humanitarian crisis at the southwest border in a way that safeguards those in our custody in a humane and dignified manner," the statement said.

The Border Patrol has started directly releasing parents and children instead of referring them to immigration authorities for



In this Nov. 3, 2018, file photo, members of the U.S. Army build a razor wire fence around area for tents near the U.S.-Mexico International bridge, in Donna, Texas.

Associated Press

potential long-term detention, but families still sometimes wait several days to be processed by the agency and released.

The Border Patrol processing center in McAllen is routinely over capacity. Kevin McAleenan, the new acting homeland security secretary, was scheduled to visit McAllen Tuesday and Wednesday. In El Paso, hundreds of people are detained in tents set up at the center of a parking lot next to a patrol station. People detained there have complained of prolonged exposure to cold. The Border Patrol limits them to one warm layer of clothing, confiscates coats, and issues a Mylar blanket to each detainee, citing health and safety concerns. U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragan, a California Democrat, visited the tents earlier this month. She said she had seen a mother with her 4-month-old child who had been there for five or more days, in conditions she said were "unhealthy."

Border Patrol officials have declined to allow the media inside the tents in El Paso. Land near the bridge in Donna was used last year as a camp by active-duty soldiers when they were ordered to South Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

The Border Patrol also established a tent facility at Donna to hold migrants in December 2016, in the last weeks of the administration of former President Barack Obama, in response to a previous surge of migrants from Central America.

Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, said she had been allowed to visit the tent facility in 2016. She said that facility had been "open and clean," but noted she visited before it began de-

taining people.

"Detention is never a good idea for any family," Pimentel said. "I believe families are victims of a lot of abuse, and we just add to that abuse by the way we respond to handle and process them." □



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AP-NORC Poll: Most believe schools have become less safe

By EMILY SWANSON, CAROLYN THOMPSON and HANNAH FINGERHUT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twenty years after the Columbine High School shooting made practicing for armed intruders as routine as fire drills, many parents have only tepid confidence in the ability of schools to stop a gunman, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. And while most Americans consider schools less safe than they were 20 years ago, the poll finds a majority say schools aren't at fault for shootings. Bullying, the availability of guns, the internet and video games share more of the blame.

Lee Wisdom, a mother of two in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, believes students and staff have been trained as much as possible to prepare for an attack, but worries schools are still vulnerable to things beyond their control, like a parent holding the door for a stranger or a child sneaking his father's gun in a backpack.

"As far as inside the school, we're doing all we can to keep students safe," she said. "It is the outside of the school and the people who are coming in and out that I think are the weak link," said Wisdom, who sees school violence as a product of violent video games, TV shows and the internet's opportunities to bully and isolate.



In this Sept. 6, 2016, file photo, students at William Hackett Middle School have their bags checked and pass through metal detectors on the first day of school in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

Half of Americans blame students being bullied a great deal for school shootings. Roughly a third say the same of the internet and television, music and video games.

By and large, schools themselves are less likely to be blamed: 59% put not much or no blame on schools for the shootings. While roughly 4 in 10 say schools have at least some responsibility, just 9% attribute a great deal of blame.

In the years since two Colorado teenagers gunned down 12 classmates and a teacher in the Denver suburb of Littleton, schools across the country have fixated on planning for threats that before had been unimaginable.

Teachers and students practice fleeing and hiding during realistic shooter scenarios inside school buildings fortified by bolted doors, bulletproof glass and security cameras.

But shootings haven't stopped, and a little over a year after police say an armed ex-student killed 17 people at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the survey finds a large majority, 67%, say schools have become less safe. Only 13% say schools have become safer during the last 20 years. The rest say they are about the same.

Along the same lines, despite all of the planning, drills and expense, only about a third of parents are extremely or very confident that their children are safe in school, or that the school could respond to an active shooter. About 4 in 10 parents are moderately confident in their child's safety and the school's potential response, while about 2 in 10 have little or no confidence. And parents of school-age children are especially likely to blame shootings on schools themselves, compared with other adults, 49% to 36%.

Nearly half of Americans strongly blame shootings on the availability of guns, and a majority, 67%, want to see the nation's gun

laws made stricter.

Still, Washington has had little appetite for federal gun reforms despite surges in activism following Columbine and the 2012 shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults inside Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Last year's shooting in Parkland, Florida, brought a shift in the political landscape, with the shooting's young survivors leading a national movement aimed not only at gun reform but a new generation of voters.

Before the Democratic-controlled House in February approved a measure requiring federal background checks for all firearms sales, it had been nearly 25 years since Congress had considered major gun control legislation. The bill faces dim prospects in the Republican-controlled Senate and President Donald Trump has threatened to veto it, saying it would impose unreasonable requirements on gun owners.

"By the time they're 16 or 17, they're pretty much indoctrinated," the Three Rivers, Michigan, resident said. "If somebody's going to do something like that, no matter if the guns are available or not, they're going to find a way to do it," he added.

To make schools safer, ma-

jorities of Americans believe lockdown drills, armed security guards, metal detectors and anti-bullying campaigns work.

However, the post-Columbine generation, for whom many of those things were routine, are much less likely than older adults to think that those steps would make schools safer.

"What the survey data tell us is that we need to take the next step in our safety efforts to purposefully and strategically communicate how successful our efforts have been in making schools safe, secure places where students can be their authentic selves and learn at their best," said Bob Farrace of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Nor are younger adults as convinced that either stricter gun laws or arming teachers — another subject of political debate — is the answer, even though they are about as likely as those older to support stricter gun laws in the United States. While 44% of adults under 30 say tightening gun laws would improve school safety, 60% of adults over 30 say the same. Half of adults under 30 say arming trained teachers would actually make schools less safe, compared with about a third of those over 30.

"A well-trained teacher with a sidearm could greatly affect what happens in a classroom situation like that," said the Republican-leaning Kiefer, who retired from the trucking business.

"There are enough qualified teachers that can be armed that can help solve problems." A federal school safety commission assembled by Trump in response to the Parkland shooting said it should be left to states and schools to decide whether schools should arm staff members, but the president's Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who led the commission, said schools should "seriously consider" the option. The commission's December report steers schools to federal funding that can be used for firearm training. □

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L.A. Archdiocese agrees to \$8M payment in sex abuse case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has agreed to pay \$8 million to a teenager who was sexually abused by the athletic director at her Catholic high school who had continued to work despite prior allegations of misconduct, it was announced Tuesday.

A court finalized the settlement last week of a negligence lawsuit, said David Ring, an attorney for the teenager.

The archdiocese has paid out more than \$740 million in sexual abuse settlements over the past 15 years. Ring said the \$8 million is the largest payment to a single individual in any of the cases. "The Archdiocese recognizes that there was serious harm done to the life of the victim-survivor," the archdiocese said in a statement. "We hope that the settlement will allow her to heal and move forward with her education and lifetime goals. The Archdiocese apologizes for the impact that this caused in her life." Juan Ivan Barajas, a health teacher and athletic director at San Gabriel Mission High School, began having sex with the girl, then 15, in 2016 and eventually kidnapped her, according to court documents.

He took her to Las Vegas after his wife discovered evidence of the abuse on his cellphone, the records said.

After five days on the run, Barajas was arrested and the girl was rescued.

Barajas, now 38, pleaded guilty to felony statutory sexual seduction and was sentenced to six years in prison. □



This undated photo released by the Henderson Detention Center shows Juan Ivan Barajas of San Gabriel, Calif.

Associated Press

The lawsuit alleged that the archdiocese failed to take action despite repeated complaints of misconduct by Barajas involving other students at the all-girls school. "You had months of complaints about this individual ... yet nothing was done," Ring said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There are parents who made complaints. There are other girls who made complaints."

Anonymous letters sent to school officials in 2015 contained allegations of misconduct by Barajas. One sent to Monsignor Sal Pilato, the assistant superintendent of high schools for the archdiocese, said: "He takes the ones he likes to the office," the Los Angeles Times reported.

A year before Barajas was arrested, a coach at the school reported to the principal that on more than 50 occasions Barajas took a girl into his office where the two were alone, the Times said, citing court documents. The plaintiff in the lawsuit is emotionally scarred and suffers panic attacks and flashbacks, according to court records. □

Donations for burned black churches up after Notre Dame fire

By KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A crowdfunding campaign for three African American churches in Louisiana recently gutted by arson was climbing Tuesday after social media posts urging the public not to forget the plight of the small houses of worship as the eyes of the world were on the fire-ravaged Notre Dame cathedral in Paris.

"As we hold Paris in our hearts today, let's also send some love to our neighbors in Louisiana," a Tuesday tweet from Hillary Clinton read. Freelance journalist Yashar Ali, with 394,000 followers, struck a similar tone, tweeting that the Notre Dame restoration "will be well funded" and urging support for the Louisiana churches.

"It's a blessing, truly a blessing," the Rev. Fred-



In this April 4, 2019 file photo, firefighters and fire investigators respond to a fire at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, in Opelousas, La.

Associated Press

die Jack, president of the Seventh District Missionary Baptist Association, said of the fundraising campaign in a telephone interview Tuesday night. The three churches are members of the association.

Suspect Holden Matthews, 21, is in custody in connection with the Louisiana fires and faces charges that include hate crimes. The fires

happened in and around Opelousas beginning in late March. Matthews was arrested a week ago.

The campaign hit \$500,000 Tuesday evening, with contributions ranging from \$5 to thousands of dollars.

"It's all working out for the greater good," Jack said, when asked about the connection being made to the Notre Dame fire. □

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UK's Theresa May seeks respite from Brexit walking in Wales

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May is getting a respite from Brexit with a walking holiday in Wales — but there is no pause for political rivals hoping to take over her job. The prime minister's Downing Street office said Monday that May and her husband, Philip, started a short vacation on Saturday. Britain's Parliament is on an Easter break until April 23, after months of bruising battles that saw lawmakers reject May's European Union divorce deal three times.

May enjoys hiking in the Welsh mountains. During a visit there in 2017, she infamously decided to call a snap election to strengthen her hand in Brexit negotiations. Instead, she lost her parliamentary majority and has struggled ever since to push through her EU withdrawal plans.

Asked whether May was considering another elec-



In this Thursday, April 11, 2019 file photo, British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a media conference at the conclusion of an EU summit in Brussels.

Associated Press

tion, spokesman James Slack said: "No."

Meanwhile, several of May's Cabinet colleagues were spending the break raising their profiles ahead of an anticipated leadership contest.

May has said she will step down once Britain has ratified a divorce agreement with the EU — although with Parliament still deadlocked, it's unclear when that might happen. Pro-Brexit members of the Con-

servative Party are already demanding she quit for so far failing to take Britain out of the EU.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid, one likely contender, gave a high-profile speech Monday on knife crime that

stressed his humble roots and childhood in a crime-plagued neighborhood.

Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexiteer, warned in the Daily Telegraph that politicians must "leave the EU, and do it properly" or face the wrath of voters.

Leaders of the 27 remaining EU nations agreed last week to delay the deadline for Brexit until Oct. 31 — the second extension the bloc has given Britain.

If Parliament does not approve May's withdrawal plan, Britain faces an abrupt exit from that could lead to a deep recession as tariffs and other barriers are imposed on U.K. exports and customs checks delay goods at British ports. The government has held talks with the left-of-center opposition Labour Party in an attempt to find a compromise that can win the backing of Parliament. So far there has been no breakthrough, but negotiations are continuing. □

Congo's leader sets Ebola outbreak end date after 800 deaths

By A. KUDRA MALIRO

Associated Press

BENI, Congo (AP) — Congo's president said Tuesday that he wants an Ebola virus outbreak that already has become the country's second-deadliest contained in less than three months, although some health experts estimate it could take twice as long.

President Felix Tshisekedi set the timeline while visiting eastern Congo, the center of an Ebola outbreak that the national Health Ministry says has caused 800



Congo's president, Felix Tshisekedi, center, visits an Ebola treatment centre in Beni, Eastern Congo, Tuesday April 16, 2019.

Associated Press

deaths out of 1,200 confirmed cases.

The cases of people sickened by Ebola are from

a volatile area near the border with Rwanda and Uganda, where rebel groups and bouts of com-

munity resistance complicate efforts to contain the outbreak. More than 100,000 people have received an experimental but effective Ebola vaccine, a bright spot amid the challenges. Tshisekedi's visit came a few days after the World Health Organization decided the outbreak didn't yet arise to a global health emergency.

Congo's president vowed more protection for health workers and asked for cooperation from the region's people. Years of deadly

rebel attacks and instability have made residents wary of both outsiders and the government. If the Ebola outbreak continues "people will be scared to visit the region," Tshisekedi said. Since taking office early this year he has vowed to combat the region's rebel groups. One woman who was leaving a treatment center Tuesday after recovering from the hemorrhagic fever caused by Ebola described her mixed feelings once she learned she had the virus. □

In Libya, a rogues' gallery of militias prepare for war

By RAMI MUSA

SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Libya is on the verge of an all-out war involving a rogues' gallery of militias, many of which are little more than criminal gangs armed with heavy weapons.

The country slid into chaos after the 2011 uprising, in which rebels overthrew and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi and looted his vast arsenal. Even more weapons have flowed in since then, despite a U.N. arms embargo, as Arab states have backed local allies and Western nations have partnered with militias to combat extremists and stem the flow of migrants.

A former general is now marching on the capital, Tripoli, where an array of militias—which have fought each other in the past—have for now joined forces to prevent a return to one-man rule. The fighting has already killed around 150 people, according to U.N. figures. The International Crisis Group, a Washington- and Brussels-based think tank, said last week that the two main coalitions “appear equally matched,” with fighter jets, gunships and heavy artillery.

HIFTER'S ARMY

The self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, launched a surprise offensive to retake Tripoli on April 5. Hifter's opponents view him as an aspiring dictator, and one of his commanders is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, accused of dozens of extrajudicial killings.

Hifter, who served as a military officer under Gadhafi before defecting in the 1980s, has presented himself as a strong leader who can unify the country. He has spent the last few years battling extremist groups and other rivals in eastern Libya with aid from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia and France. He now controls most of eastern Libya, including the coun-



This Sept. 21, 2018 file photo, shows fighters under the UN-backed government on the front lines during clashes in southern Tripoli.

try's main oil facilities, and has recently made inroads across the south.

His forces include the remnants of Gadhafi's army as well as tribal fighters and ultra-conservative Islamists known as Salafists. They appear more like a regular army than their adversaries, with uniforms and a clear chain of command. The LNA is allied with other militias from the western city of Zintan that were driven out of Tripoli in 2014.

Hifter's forces boast MiG fighter jets supplied by neighboring Egypt, as well as drones, attack helicopters and mine-resistant vehicles.

Their heavy weapons and air power give them an advantage in open areas. But they have struggled in urban combat, and their campaigns in the east have left a swath of destruction in Benghazi and other cities. A similar scenario could play out in Tripoli, with local militias luring Hifter's forces into the city and fighting block by block.

TRIPOLI MILITIAS

The U.N. and Western nations support a transitional government set up in Tripoli in 2016 and led by Fayez Sarraj, a technocrat with no military experience. His government was forced to

court powerful militias for its own protection, and these groups have vowed to repel Hifter's forces.

Wolfram Lacher, a Libya expert at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, says the main Tripoli militias dominate Serraj's government and have infiltrated its institutions to pillage state resources. In a report published last year, he described them as “criminal networks straddling business, politics and administration.”

They include the Special Deterrent Force, led by Salafist commander Abderrauf Kara, which controls the entrances to Tripoli as well as Matiga, the capital's only functioning airport. The Nawasi Brigade, led by Salafist Mustafa Qadri, controls the naval base that houses Serraj's government.

The Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade is led by Haitham al-Tajuri, who was a bus driver before the 2011 uprising but now tools around the capital in a white Mercedes SUV, sporting clothes by Versace and Dolce & Gabbana. His forces control much of Tripoli, including the southern outskirts.

A U.N. report in 2016 said al-Tajuri and his associates had threatened Central Bank employees in order

to receive letters of credit worth more than \$20 million. His group was also behind the brief kidnapping of a former prime minister in 2017.

MISRATA AND ZAWIYA

The western towns of Misrata and Zawiya saw some of the heaviest fighting during the 2011 uprising and boast powerful local militias allied with the U.N.-backed government.

The Misrata militias secured U.S. military support for their campaign against the Islamic State group in 2016, eventually driving the extremists from their main stronghold in the central city of Sirte. The Misratans also have a large number of tanks they captured from Gadhafi's forces in 2011.

Zawiya is home to the Martyrs of Victory Brigade, another powerful militia that has joined the alliance against Hifter. Militiamen from Zawiya captured 100 of Hifter's fighters the day after he launched his offensive.

The leader of the Martyrs of Victory Brigade, Mahmoud Kachlaf, is under U.N. sanctions for allegedly running a large migrant smuggling network. He is accused of working with the commander of the Libyan coast guard in Zawiya to

intercept boats run by rival smuggling networks and then detain, abuse and exploit migrants.

LIBYA DAWN

A loose alliance of militias, including some affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood group, seized Tripoli in 2014 after their rivals won disputed parliamentary elections. The new parliament relocated to eastern Libya and later allied itself with Hifter, resulting in competing governments.

The militias, known as Libya Dawn, are widely believed to have received support from Turkey and Qatar, which are also believed to have backed Islamist factions during the 2011 uprising.

The Steadfastness Front, led by militia leader Saleh Badi, is seen as the successor to the alliance, which fractured after the U.N.-backed government was established. He is under U.N. and U.S. sanctions for repeatedly attacking forces allied with Serraj's government, most recently last August. But for now, he is siding with them against Hifter.

MIGRANT PATROLS

After 2011, Libya emerged as a major conduit for refugees and migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa for a better life in Europe. Thousands of migrants have perished while trying to cross the Mediterranean in overcrowded boats while others have been detained and abused by smugglers and armed groups.

The European Union has provided aid to Serraj's government to help stem the flow of migrants, and Italy has provided vessels and training to the Libyan coast guard.

The Associated Press reported in 2017 that Italy had reached an agreement with the U.N.-backed government to pay militias implicated in trafficking to prevent migrants from departing from the port city of Sabratha. Security officials at the time warned that the groups would use the aid to buy arms and recruit fighters. □

Egypt lawmakers pass amendments now headed to referendum

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's parliament on Tuesday passed amendments to the constitution that could see President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi remain in power until 2030. The vote, which sends the amendments to a national referendum, was seen by critics as another step back to authoritarianism, eight years after a pro-democracy uprising ended autocrat Hosni Mubarak's three-decade rule.

The 596-member assembly, packed with el-Sissi's supporters, overwhelmingly gave its initial approval in February, sending it to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee to finalize the wording before Tuesday's final vote.

Of the 554 lawmakers who attended the session, 531 voted "yes," 22 voted "no" and one abstained.

"Today we are concluding what we started in February," speaker Ali Abdel-Al said at the beginning of the session. "In this great day, we offer to the Egyptian people a draft bill of the constitutional amendments."

The national referendum will likely take place before early May when the Muslim



People walk past a banner supporting proposed amendments to the Egyptian constitution with a poster of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

Associated Press

holy month of Ramadan starts. Since early April, the Egyptian capital has been awash with large posters and banners encouraging people to vote in favor of the changes. In Cairo's central Tahrir Square, where mass protests became the symbol of the 2011 anti-Mubarak uprising and of hopes for democratic change in Egypt, the

posters urge people to vote in the referendum.

"Take part, say ... 'yes' for the constitutional amendments," says one banner near the pro-government Nation's Future Party. Most of the posters were apparently funded by pro-government parties, businessmen and lawmakers.

The constitutional changes would only extend a presi-

dent's term in office from four to six years and allow for a maximum of two terms. But they also include a special article specific to el-Sissi that extends his current second four-year term to six years and allows him to run for another six-year term in 2024 — potentially extending his rule until 2030. Justifying this clause, speaker Abdel-Al said it was

aimed at "political justice ... and the required stability." The February draft of the special article was different, proposing to allow el-Sissi to run for two more six-year terms after his current term expires in 2022, possibly putting him at the helm of Egypt until 2034.

No reason was given for the change, apparently made by the committee that drafted the final version of the text.

Lawmaker Ahmed Khalil said his Salafi Nour party, which promotes strict adherence to sharia law, rejected the proposed changes because the constitution states that Egypt is a civilian state, which is understood by some people as a "secular country." Sharia law, or Islamic law, is based on Islamic principles, particularly those found in the Quran and Hadith.

Later in the day, he said his party approved the proposals after the speaker clarified that a civilian state doesn't mean a secular state.

It has been nearly six years since el-Sissi led the military overthrow of the country's first freely elected but divisive Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi, after mass protests against his rule. □

Turkey's ruling party wants Istanbul election voided, redone

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's ruling party on Tuesday asked that a recent municipal election it lost in Istanbul be invalidated, as partial vote recounts in the city and the fight for the country's commercial hub continued.

The Justice and Development Party, or AKP, filed its "extraordinary objection" to the March 31 election results for Istanbul metropolitan mayor with Turkey's electoral board. Citing alleged irregularities, the party previously pushed for a recount of votes, and that process is still underway in one Istanbul district.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AKP and its nationalist ally won a major-



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his party's mayoral candidate for Istanbul Binali Yildirim, his ministers Bekir Pakdemirli, Mevlut Cavusoglu and Suleyman Soylu, attend funeral prayers for Mustafa Yazici during funeral prayers, in Istanbul, Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Associated Press

ity of local election votes across Turkey but lost in the capital, Ankara. In Istanbul, unofficial contested results give the main opposition party's mayoral candidate, Ekrem Imamoglu, a 13,827-vote lead over AKP candidate Binali Yildirim.

That difference has dropped from some 25,000 votes with the partial recount.

Speaking to reporters after filing the objection, Ali Ihsan Yavuz, the AKP's deputy chairman, said their previous request for a total re-

count was not granted. He asserted that had all votes been recounted "this election would have resulted in our benefit."

He said the elections were marred by "organized irregularity" and submitted three suitcases of documents purportedly documenting fraud to the electoral board.

The board is expected to rule on the ruling party's request after all recounts are complete. If it accepts the AKP's objection, Istanbul could repeat the election on June 2.

Both Ankara and Istanbul had been held by Erdogan's conservative, religious-based party and its predecessor for 25 years. Istanbul, with its 15 million residents and strategic lo-

cation straddling Europe and Asia, is Turkey's financial and cultural heart. It made up 31% of Turkey's GDP of \$851 billion in 2017 and draws millions of tourists.

The Istanbul metropolitan mayorship and its subsidiaries had a total budget of \$8.8 billion last year. The municipality has awarded lucrative contracts to businesses close to the government over the years and offers huge financial resources and employment opportunities.

Erdogan's rise to power began as Istanbul mayor in 1994 and he has repeated numerous times in pre-election rallies: "Whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkey" and "Whoever loses Istanbul, loses Turkey." □



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Indonesia candidates: Metal fan, cleric, soldier, tycoon

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesia's presidential election Wednesday pits incumbent Joko Widodo against former special forces Gen. Prabowo Subianto in a repeat of the 2014 contest. Widodo, a furniture exporter and heavy metal fan who had a meteoric rise in Indonesian politics, chose a conservative Muslim cleric as his vice presidential candidate. Subianto's running mate is a self-made tycoon.

A look at the presidential and vice presidential candidates:

JOKO WIDODO

Usually known as Jokowi, Widodo began his political career in the central Javanese city of Solo and hit the big time when he became governor of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, in 2012. A down-to-earth style and reputation for clean governance helped propel him



This combination photo taken on Saturday, April 13, 2019, left, and Sunday, April 7, 2019, right, show Indonesian President Joko Widodo, left, and his challenger in the upcoming election Prabowo Subianto during their campaign rallies in Jakarta, Indonesia.

to the presidency in 2014. Widodo, 57, was likened to Barack Obama, and progressive voters hoped that as the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite he would address a catalog of major human rights abuses in the country. But while in office, he has been unwilling to press for accountability that

threatens powerful institutions such as the military. Instead he has emphasized nationalism while also fending off attacks that he is insufficiently Muslim. Widodo's signature policy has been improving Indonesia's poor infrastructure. He also continued the poverty alleviation policies of his predecessor.

Associated Press

MA'RUF AMIN

One of the most important religious figures in Muslim-majority Indonesia, Amin was selected as Widodo's running mate to shore up his support among pious Muslims. He was chairman of Majelis Ulama Indonesia, the country's council of Islamic leaders, and supreme leader of Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Muslim organization.

But an avuncular persona belies Amin's reactionary beliefs.

Amin, 76, has been a vocal supporter and drafter of fatwas against religious minorities and LGBT people. Human Rights Watch says the fatwas, or edicts, have legitimized increasingly hateful rhetoric by government officials against LGBT people, and in some cases fueled deadly violence by Islamic militants against religious minorities.

PRABOWO SUBIANTO

Subianto, a former special forces general who was dismissed from the military in 1998, is making his second run at the presidency after narrowly losing to Widodo in 2014. A strident nationalist, he has run a fear-based campaign, highlighting what he sees as Indonesia's weakness and the risk of exploitation by foreign powers or disintegration.

Subianto, 67, has sometimes highlighted a novel about a future world war that briefly mentions Indonesia as part of the basis for those fears. He was a star officer during the Suharto era and married the dictator's daughter.

After Suharto was forced from office by social and economic chaos in 1998, Subianto was dismissed from the military. Soldiers under his command had kidnapped student activists, some of whom remain missing. □

Russian court grants early release to would-be IS bride

By NATALIYA VASILYeva

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian court on Tuesday granted parole to a Moscow student who was sent to prison for trying to join the Islamic State group in Syria.

The court in Russia's northwest upheld Varvara Karaulova's plea to cut her prison sentence by one year and 10 days. The 23-year old Moscow State University student was sentenced to 4½ years in prison in December 2016.

She was arrested in Turkey,



In this file photo taken on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, Varvara Karaulova, who was detained last year in Turkey as she was reportedly trying to cross the border into Syria, sits in a cage in the Moscow District Military Court in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

where she was trying to cross into Syria after her fa-

ther filed a missing person's report.

At least 4,000 Russian citizens, mostly from predominantly Muslim regions, have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join IS. Philosophy major Karaulova, from a middle-class, non-Muslim Moscow family, was unusual among Russian IS recruits who typically hailed from impoverished provincial backgrounds in the North Caucasus.

Karaulova, a convert to Islam, insists that she fell in love with a man she met online and wanted to marry him in Syria but did not

share the radical ideology of the IS. Her father had pleaded with the court to acquit Karaulova, saying that he was seeking help from Russian authorities by filing a missing person's report, not vengeance against his daughter.

Karaulova, who was expelled from university shortly after her arrest, told the court on Tuesday that her trip to Turkey was "the most foolish thing I have ever done in my life and the one I'm still punishing myself for." □

First Red Cross aid delivery lands in crisis-torn Venezuela

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The first shipment of humanitarian aid from the Red Cross arrived in Venezuela on Tuesday, delivering medicine and supplies for needy patients in a country whose president has long denied the existence of a humanitarian crisis.

Workers in blue vests helped load boxes with the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies emblem onto trucks while leaders with the organization pleaded for officials to keep the aid out of the nation's political dispute.

"It will be distributed in conformance with the fundamental principles of our movement, especially neutrality, impartiality and independence," said Mario Villarroel, president of the Venezuelan Red Cross. "Don't allow the politicization of this great achievement."

The delivery of international humanitarian aid has become a focal point in Venezuela's power struggle, now in its third month after opposition leader Juan Guaidó declared himself interim president. Both the opposition and the government have been accused



A convoy of trucks arrive at a warehouse transporting from the international airport the first shipment International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies humanitarian aid, in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

of politicizing the nation's crisis, which rights groups say continues to cost lives as hospitals struggle to provide even basic care.

Guaidó has rallied the international community and collected several hundred tons of aid, primarily from the United States, at the border in Colombia. But President Nicolás Maduro has previously refused to allow it in. In February, state security forces blocked border bridges and repressed

opposition leaders trying to deliver the shipments.

"We aren't beggars," Maduro said in justifying his denial.

But as hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets protesting his rule this year, Maduro has been pressed to address the nation's shortages of essential goods like food and medicine. He's selectively chosen to accept aid from allies like China, framing it as a necessary measure

to confront U.S. economic sanctions.

The delivery of any aid is tacit recognition that his country is indeed in the throes of a humanitarian crisis, a notion he has long dismissed as opposition propaganda.

In recent years, an estimated 3.7 million people have fled the South American nation for neighboring countries like Colombia, many seeking health care for everything from minor

Associated Press

infections to cancer treatment they can no longer obtain. Hospitals in Venezuela often operate without essential supplies, asking patients to bring in surgical gear and medicine.

A recent report by Human Rights Watch in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded Venezuela's health system is in "utter collapse." It cited increased levels of maternal and infant mortality, the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases and high levels of child malnutrition.

"The combination of medicine shortages and food shortages, together with the spread of diseases across Venezuela's borders, amounts to a complex humanitarian emergency," the report states.

In late March, the Red Cross federation announced it would soon begin delivering assistance to an estimated 650,000 people and vowed that it would not accept interference from either side of the polarized country. Federation President Francesco Rocca said Red Cross workers would focus on the medical needs of hospitals, regardless of whether they are state-run or not. □

Brazil officials: Militias prevented oversight of buildings

By C.H. Gardiner
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

Brazilian authorities said Monday they knew about structural risks in the area where a pair of buildings collapsed but were unable to act due to the threat posed by organized crime. Rio de Janeiro's mayor's office and firefighters said that 10 people, including five children, were killed when two buildings in the Itanhangá neighborhood fell last week. The most recent casualty was an adult woman found dead early Monday morning.

"As of yet we have managed to rescue 10 people from the rubble but there is still evidence of 14 potentially missing people," Sgt.



Residents watch as a helicopter prepares to take off carrying an injured woman rescued from the rubble of two buildings that collapsed in the Muzema neighborhood, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, April 12, 2019.

Moses Torres of the Rio fire department told The Associated Press.

"We have a lot more hope in situations like this, for example, than Brumadinho because the buildings col-

lapsed in such a way that they can sustain life for an extended period," Torres said, referring to the January failure of a mining dam which killed 228 people. On Monday, the state at-

torney general's office said that the two buildings were part of an illegal construction scheme led by militias. Such criminal organizations often take over suburban areas in Rio to build and sell unregulated housing in a process called "grilagem." The office said that it had observed militias conducting such business in the area of the collapsed buildings as far back as 2005. But it said that courts had blocked legal actions to limit construction in the area.

In January, a specialized anti-organized crime unit conducted an operation in the area to arrest 13 individuals associated with the militias, but residents said such groups continued to

tax businesses and locals. Residents were using the condemned structures up until their collapse last Friday after days of heavy rain.

In February, Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella said that the city had been unable to make drainage improvements in the area due to militia activity, but police had secured the neighborhood and work was underway to resolve the issues.

"After being abandoned for so many years, I expect the area to be redeemed for Rio de Janeiro," Crivella said at the time. He first met with community leaders in March 2017 to announce a plan to improve sanitation in the area. □

LOCAL



Hooked on Seafood



PALM BEACH — For sublime seafood in Aruba go to the island's Premiere Seafood restaurant: Aqua Grill. This seafood-heaven place is already a statement for years with a consistency in upscale dining and top service. If you like to savor your seafood, this is your plunge. We promise you that you will get hooked.

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Easter Elevation

Part of the allure of fresh seafood is the variation of dishes. Aqua Grill prepared a special Easter Menu for you offering three courses of delicacies. Your appetizer can be a Spicy Tuna Tartar, a West Indian Fish Cake or a Caribbean Seafood Chowder. For the entrée you have the amazing choice between Blackened salmon, West Indian Curried Shrimp or Slow-roasted Rack of Lamb. This sensational menu will be topped off with an Easter Swirl Cake. As an extra added value you may start with the Oyster Bar Selection, fresh surprises from Holland, Maine, New Brunswick or Massachusetts. Suggested wine that pairs the menu is Le Poussin Rose, Vin de France 2015 offering a blend of Grenache and Cinsault that balances freshness, fruitiness and ripeness.

**The Core**

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant has its core in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team won a range of awards for their continuous delivery of haute-cuisine del mar. Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's.

Aqua Grill invites you to get hooked on the largest raw bar of the island and dive into the wine list of over one hundred selected choices. Local and international catches create an impressive menu including snapper, grouper, mahi-mahi, Chilean salmon, sashimi tuna, Main lobster and Alaskan king crabs. Non-seafood options are part of the menu selection as well. Many locals and visitors are already a regular, we are convinced you want to join that group after your first experience. □



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Spotter's Day Expo by Jean-Pierre Maduro



By Kenna Hernandez
ORANJESTAD – Reina Beatrix International Airport organized an event 'Spotter's Day' where 10 photographers were chosen to show their photos that were taken at the airside. Yesterday the expo opened with the winning pictures. The winner is Jean-Pierre Maduro who won the prize, an ex-

position of his ten preferred photos of airplanes on the wall where millions of travelers can admire and see the local art.

Hendrik Croes, PR & Communications Officer of Aruba Airport Authority, explained about how the project started last year for the people that wanted to

participate. They posted the event on social media. "In our concept, we are one of the first in the Caribbean region where a photographer is allowed to take photos of an airplane in the airside area."

It is not normal that people can enter and take pictures, therefore we created the Spotter Day so spotters can have the freedom. The event took place 11th of August 2018. Different units worked together to make this event possible. More than 40 applicants participated, but only ten were selected for this expo competition.

Before they could enter the airside property, they had to undergo a safety program. After this training the



10 photographers with a team were allowed to enter the airside. "After the Spotter Day each one of these photographers needed to submit their 10 best photos and all of these were posted on social media in order for people to vote", Croes explained. After counting the votes, result for the best spotter picture is Jean-Pierre Maduro, rewarded with a prize of an exposition at the airport. Maduro was asked to choose his ten best pictures.

CEO James Fazio said that when the airport team pitched the idea he simply loved it. "We have talented people that captured amazing pictures of the airplanes, I congratulate Mr. Maduro for his excellent job and all the people that voted." He adds that the airport is constantly busy and these pictures capture the energy at our airport. "We have millions of people that travel and they will get to see these pictures on the wall, showing off our local talent."

Maduro said that his desire has always been to be displayed at the airport. "When Hendrik organize this event, I realized it is something that I have been waiting for a long time. The day it happened, it was special to me. My inspira-

tion is aviation, since I was a kid my mom took me to travel around so flying and photography is what I love to do", he explains.

He considers himself a creative person when it comes to take pictures, trying to bring photos that normally people do not see about airplanes 'I want to bring that to Aruba'. Nowadays he barely sees people doing aviation photography in the Caribbean and that is exactly one of the reasons he chose this. He says that he was so happy being the whole day in the airport without any worries to eat or anything. His goal was to lay on the floor or doing whatever needed to be done 'to capture the perfect shot because that is what I love'. □

Spotter's Day 2019 will be held on August 10, 2019, and this time around both local and international plane spotters are invited to sign up for this unique opportunity. Follow Queen Beatrix International Airport on facebook, twitter and Instagram to receive more information and details on how to sign up for Spotter's Day 2019.

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Have a look at

Helen Pietchel from Massachusetts. She send us this great picture and wrote:

**“Aruba to me is.....
Simply the Best!**

This picture was taken at the Bohemian Restaurant, a new garden restaurant with a French flair. We are dining in the “cocoon”



Tickle your Taste Buds with Tierra del Sol



NOORD — There is a place on the Northern part of the island that makes up for your perfect dream night. The location: the island's rugged north coast and blue ocean forming your panoramic from Tierra del Sol's restaurant, either from the poolside outdoor terrace or from the elegant indoor restaurant. The offering: From breakfast to dinner excellent cuisine, friendly service, and a gorgeous setting, but now even more special with the NEW 'All You Can Taste' concept – on from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6PM – 10PM.



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Fresh Oysters, Tuna Crab Duo, Bruchetta Caprese, Portobello Mushroom, Smoked Beef

Tataki or Chicken Curry Waldorf Salad are only some of the welcoming dishes. For the main courses you can decide for Skirt Steak, Duck Venison Duo or Pumpkin Risotto among others and to top it off with a sweet surrender a Duo of Quesillo & Brownie, Melon Martini or Cheesecake are one of the choices. This all for a special price and including a glass of sangria. Indulge into this culinary discovery at the most romantic scenery of our One Happy Island.□

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely Adrienne and Vincent D'Alessio from New York who have been visiting Aruba for 30 years consecutively.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, the delicious variety of foods and

Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Renaissance Ocean Suites presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home.□



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For more information and/or questions
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rabbi@bethisrael.com or 297-5823272

Today's Happening

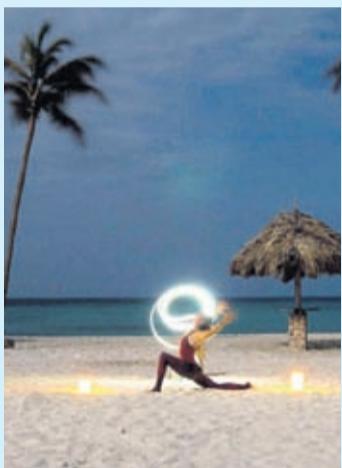


A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 17

Bohemian Restaurant

- Enjoy the best paella on the island, wine-pairing, some flamenco & Rumba Gitana music and a beautiful garden at this new kid in town.
- Starts at 8:00 PM
- At the corner of Barcelo Restaurant
- Facebook Bohemian

Thursday 18
Full Moon Yoga

- Just like the ocean tides, the full moon influences our own rhythms, enhancing whatever we are strongly feeling at the time. Through yoga, we can tap into this potent lunar energy to restore balance between feeling grounded yet expansive, dreamy yet called to action. The full moon is a powerful time to set your intentions and move mindfully! Find them at Arashi Beach – look for candles, torch lights and a sacred gathering of people.
- From 8:30PM-9:30PM
- Arashi Beach, Noord
- Facebook: Island Yoga

Friday 19
Good Friday- Crusade

- The passion of the Christ crusade will be presented for the public on the streets surrounding the church of Fatima in Dakota.
- From 10:00AM
- Church Fatima, Dakota
- Facebook: Misa Birgen di Fatima

Saturday 20
Celebrate with Rancho

- The Rancho Foundation is celebrating 9 years. This is a great reason to spend a day with them. There will be a great exhibition of pictures, book sales, lot of ambience, good food and a great time to mingle with the locals.
- From 6:00PM-8:00PM
- Centro di Actividad Rancho, Koningstraat 38, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Stichting Rancho

Sunday 21
Easter Brunch at Solanio

- Celebrate Easter at Solanio and indulge in an exclusive brunch featuring an incredible display of tempting palate-pleasers, sweet treats and mimosas.
- From 12:00PM-3:00PM
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook: The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

Monday 22
Carnival Night at Eagle Aruba

- Dance the night away with live steel pan music and a spectacular carnival show. Experience some delicious local dishes and take home hand crafted artifacts.
- From 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
- Eagle Aruba Resort Courtyard
- Facebook Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino

Tuesday 23
Ling & Sons

- Take advantage of the 20% discount on all fruits and vegetables. It's a great day for shopping.
- From 7:30 AM till 9 PM
- Schotlandstraat 41, Oranjestad
- Facebook Ling and Sons IGA Super Center

SPORTS



Djokovic labors into Monte Carlo 3rd round with scrappy win

By JEROME PUGMIRE
AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Two-time champion Novak Djokovic struggled with his serve at times but reached the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters with a scrappy 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win over Philipp Kohlschreiber on Tuesday. Djokovic double-faulted eight times and needed five match points to beat Kohlschreiber, who lost eight of their previous 10 matches but secured a rare win in the third round at Indian Wells last month. He caused problems again for the top-ranked Djokovic in an error-strewn match which featured eight straight breaks of serve from when Kohlschreiber led 2-1 in the second set. Midway through that, Djokovic needed treatment for a couple of minutes on his right thumb. He appeared to hurt it while sliding at the baseline during the fifth game.

"I lost my serve four games in a row in the second set, and that hasn't happened too many times in my life," Djokovic said. "I'm not a big server, but still, that's quite a lot. It just didn't feel so comfortable serving today. Let's put it that way."

After Kohlschreiber dropped serve at the start of the deciding set — the eighth straight service break — Djokovic saved break points before holding for 2-0. The 15-time Grand Slam champion, who will aim to win a fourth straight major when the French Open starts next month, then upped his level.

Continued on Page 21

CLIPPERS COMEBACK



Wilson sticks with Seahawks, becomes highest paid player

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP)— Russell Wilson is sticking around with the Seattle Seahawks as the highest paid player in the NFL.

Wilson posted a video on social media early Tuesday saying, "Seattle, we got a deal," shortly after agreeing to a \$140 million, four-year extension with the Seahawks, his agent Mark Rodgers told The Associated Press. Wilson's new deal runs through the 2023 season and includes a \$65 million signing bonus, a no-trade clause and \$107 million in guaranteed money. Wilson's per year average of \$35 million tops Aaron Rodgers' average annual salary of \$33.5 million as part of the \$134 million extension he signed last year with the Green Bay Packers. Wilson's current \$87.6 million, four-year deal was signed at the beginning of training camp in 2015 and was set to expire after next season.

"Russell's goal and his hope was that he would continue his career with the Seahawks and continue to bring championships to this town," Rodgers said. "He believes there is still unfinished business and he is looking forward to pursuing that without having to worry about contracts and his future."

The 30-year-old Wilson had set a midnight deadline for a new deal with Seattle. He wanted certainty about his contract before the start of the team's offseason workout program, which began on Monday. Wilson showed up for the first day and by the end of the night was posting a video with wife Ciara announcing the agreement.

The deal ends the debate about Wilson's future with the Seahawks, although there seemed to be little doubt he would remain in Seattle for a while. The team held leverage knowing it likely had at least three more seasons with Wilson under center. Even if he played out 2019 under his current deal, Seattle could have used the



In this Jan. 27, 2019, file photo, NFC quarterback Russell Wilson of the Seattle Seahawks runs onto the field during player introductions before the NFL Pro Bowl football game against the AFC in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

franchise tag if needed to keep him under contract through 2020 and 2021 at a

reasonable price by quarterback standards. But the extension allows Se-

attle to budget for the future knowing how to work with Wilson's hefty paycheck in the years ahead and build a contender around the former third-round pick that has developed into a franchise QB. Wilson's new deal was going to have to top the extension signed by Rodgers before the start of last season. Wilson was the second-highest paid player in football behind Rodgers when his deal was signed in 2015, but had fallen to the 12th highest-paid QB in the league, according to Overthecap.com.

The five-time Pro Bowl selection is coming off arguably his best season as Seattle went a surprising 10-6 and earned an NFC wild card before losing to Dallas

in the opening round of the playoffs. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year, but the Seahawks were ahead of schedule thanks to their return to a run-first offense and Wilson's exceptional performance when tasked to throw. The 5-foot-11 Wilson threw for a career-high 35 touchdowns and matched his career low with seven interceptions. He attempted only 427 passes — his lowest total since his second season when Seattle won the Super Bowl — but his efficiency was a career best with a 110.9 passer rating. He also ran only 67 times, a career low, as the improved run game and offensive line play allowed Wilson to stay in the pocket more and scramble for his life less. □

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Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

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Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

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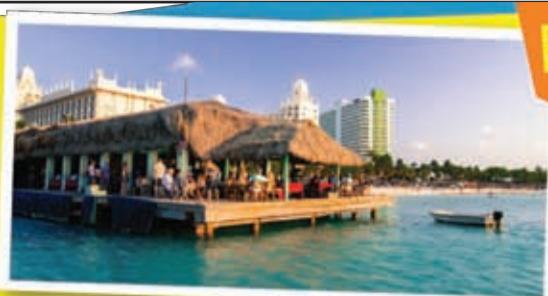
Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Poker Room

Please note: Buy in for \$200 or more & receive extra \$20 bonus, one hour minimum play.

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Happy Hour at BUGALOE
TODAY: 5-6pm & 10-11pm
SPECIAL PRICES on Mojito and local beers: Balashi & Chill



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Warriors squander 31-point lead, Clippers tie series at 1-1

By JANIE McCUALEY

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Lou Williams led the Los Angeles Clippers to the largest post-season comeback in NBA history.

Landry Shamet hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 16.5 seconds left, Stephen Curry couldn't answer on the other end, and the Clippers somehow rallied from 31 points down on the road to stun the Golden State Warriors 135-131 on Monday night and even their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

The comeback topped a 29-point rally by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1989 Western Conference semi-finals over Seattle. The Clippers confirmed it's the best comeback ever.

"That's a record we didn't necessarily want to have. We'll take it," Williams said. "You're competitive and you get lost in the game. Once you cut the lead to 12, you cut the lead to 10, then you realize you've got a game going. I'm one of those guys who can get hot."

Curry scored 29 points and put the Warriors up 131-128 with 58 seconds left before Shamet's dagger on a night the two-time defending NBA champions lost DeMarcus Cousins to a leg injury in the first quarter.

"We changed a couple things offensively and defensively in the third on the fly. It worked out for us. But I thought it was our spirit more than anything," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Just every single guy. I loved the end of the game."

Williams tied the game on a jumper with 1:10 to play then Curry immediately answered. Williams scored again at 46 seconds and finished with 36 points and



Brooklyn Nets' D'Angelo Russell, left, tries to get to the basket against Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons, right, of Australia, during the second half in Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, April 15, 2019, in Philadelphia.

made 8 of 10 free throws in as the teams combined for 64 fouls and 76 free throws attempted.

"When I say we stopped playing, we stopped playing, like defense, offense, execution-wise we were not as engaged as we needed to be," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We got exactly what we deserved. The Clippers were great. They executed, they were hungry, they stayed connected. They were together."

Cousins injured his left quadriceps muscle in the first quarter and was done for the game, but Golden State's depth shined and the Warriors built a 23-point halftime lead they pushed to a 31-point advantage before failing to hold off Los Angeles late.

Williams' jumper and three-point play with 5:34 left pulled the Clippers within 120-117 then he rebounded his own miss and scored the putback at the 5:05

mark and cut it to 121-119. "The wheels fell off," Curry said. Cousins was scheduled to undergo an MRI exam after the injury in just his second career playoff game following a nine-year wait. The big man returned in January from a nearly year-long absence following surgery for a torn left Achilles tendon. "There's a pretty significant quad injury," Kerr said.

Cousins hobbled to the locker room at the 8:09 mark of the first quarter. At the 8 1/2-minute mark Cousins stole the ball from Patrick Beverley in the back court and tried to retrieve the loose ball when went down in front of the Golden State bench and grabbed at his left quad.

LeBron James tweeted prayers for Cousins, who fouled out of Saturday's 121-104 Game 1 win with nine points, nine rebounds and four assists in 21 minutes. Kevon Looney picked up the bulk of the extra min-

utes in Cousins' absence and scored a career-high 19 points making all six of his shots but the Warriors had their seven-game postseason winning streak snapped that dated to last year's run to a repeat championship. Durant had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists, Klay Thompson scored 17 points and Draymond Green 14 with nine assists. Curry followed up a 38-point performance in Game 1 that gave him the most 3s in postseason history with another nice showing but Golden State hurt itself with too many miscues. The Warriors committed 21 turnovers in Game 1, then 22 more Monday — nine by Durant.

"We let our guard down. We weren't the aggressors anymore. We didn't deserve to win that game," Thompson said.

Los Angeles wanted to do a better job stopping the late bursts each quarter the Warriors had in Game

1, and the Clippers were somehow able to claw their way back.

Both coaches challenged their teams to be more poised in Game 2 following the ejections of Beverley and Durant in the opener. Beverley again pushed the limits but the sides avoided a testy encore, and he fouled out with 4:33 to go to roaring cheers from the sellout crowd. Kevin Durant fouled out at 1:21 with a third straight offensive foul.

76ERS 145, NETS 123

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ben Simmons had 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and the 76ers had an answer for the pesky Nets in a win to even their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Simmons had a disastrous Game 1, on the court (nine points) and from a PR perspective after he criticized fans for booing during a game the Sixers were never really in. He backtracked the next day at practice and never gave another 20,591 fans a chance to do anything but roar in approval in Game 2. Simmons flashed the All-Star form that helped lead the Sixers to 51 wins, and was aggressive from tipoff. He used his size and speed to attack the lane and scored 16 points in the half — and then put the game away in the third.

The Sixers busted the game open with a 14-0 run to start the second half and then stretched the lead to 20 on a Simmons steal and fastbreak basket. With a packed house standing, Simmons got a massive ovation when he cupped his hand to his right ear just like Iverson did in his prime. Iverson and former Sixers teammate Dikembe Mutombo attended the game and tossed T-shirts into the crowd. □

Associated Press

Hurricanes blank Caps 5-0 in 1st home playoff game since '09

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Rookie forward Warren Foegele had two goals and an assist, Petr Mrazek earned his fourth career postseason shutout and the Carolina Hurricanes won their first home playoff game in a decade, routing the Washington Capitals 5-0 on Monday night.

Dougie Hamilton also scored two goals, Brock McGinn had a late goal and an assist and Jaccob Slavin had two assists as the rapid-fire Hurricanes outshot Washington 45-18 to cut the defending Stanley Cup champions' lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Playing with just 10 forwards after losing two to injuries in the first period, Carolina effectively rolled with three lines the rest of the way and fed off an amped-up crowd releasing 10 years of pent-up frustration with every hit.

Mrazek finished with 18 saves in his fifth career playoff victory — the last four have been shutouts.

Braden Holtby stopped 40 shots for Washington, which had its six-game postseason winning streak snapped. The Capitals were shut out in the playoffs for the first time since 2017.

The first postseason game in Raleigh since 2009 was a physical, borderline violent affair, headlined by Alex Ovechkin's first career playoff fight, one that sent Hurricanes rookie Andrei Svechnikov's head crashing onto the ice and knocked him out of the game.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, BRUINS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews scored his first goal of the playoffs and set up another as Toronto beat Boston to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference quarterfinal.

Andreas Johnsson, also with a goal and an assist, and Trevor Moore provided the rest of the offense for the Maple Leafs. Frederik Andersen made 34 saves. David Krejci and Charlie Coyle scored for the Bruins. Tuukka Rask stopped 31 shots.



Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin, right, of Russia, punches Carolina Hurricanes' Andrei Svechnikov, also of Russia, during the first period of Game 3 of an NHL hockey first-round playoff series in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Less than an hour before puck drop, the Maple Leafs learned center Nazem Kadri had been suspended for the rest of the series for

his vicious cross-check to the head of Bruins winger Jake DeBrusk in the third period of Game 2.

Game 4 is Wednesday night in Toronto.

AVALANCHE 6, FLAMES 2

DENVER (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon scored twice in the first period and set up newly signed rookie Cale Makar's first NHL goal in his debut as Colorado routed Calgary to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series. Matt Nieto added a short-handed goal, and Mikko Rantanen and Erik Johnson also scored for the wild-card Avalanche, who built a 6-1 lead early in the third period and finished with 56 shots. Philipp Grubauer was credited with 27 saves.

MacKinnon had two power-play goals. But the goal of the night was turned in by Makar, the 20-year-old defenseman who was signed Sunday and jumped into Colorado's postseason lineup two days after his college season ended when Massachusetts lost in the Frozen Four championship game. Makar, who grew up a Flames fan in Calgary, was the fourth overall draft pick by the

Avalanche in 2017. It didn't take long for him to make a big impact. He scored on his first NHL shot as his parents celebrated in the stands.

Sam Bennett and TJ Brodie scored for the Flames, the top seed in the Western Conference. Game 4 is Wednesday night in Denver.

PREDATORS 3, STARS 2

DALLAS (AP) — Mikael Granlund scored on a wrist shot from just inside the blue line with 8:19 left and Nashville, after blowing a two-goal lead, beat Dallas for a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference series. Granlund, acquired in a trade with Minnesota in late February, got the puck from Dante Fabbro after Kyle Turris won a faceoff against Stars captain Jamie Benn. Rocco Grimaldi scored in his second game in a row for the Predators, and Filip Forsberg had a perfectly timed play for a goal. Pekka Rinne made 40 saves.

Tyler Seguin and Mats Zuccarello scored for the Stars. After three consecutive one-goal games, Game 4 is Wednesday night in Dallas. □

Djokovic

Continued from Page 18

He held to love for 4-2 and saved a break point to go 5-3 up, forcing his 35-year-old German opponent to serve to stay in the match. Kohlschreiber saved a first match point at 30-40 with a sublime drop shot and held.

Serving for the match, Djokovic fluffed another three match points. After finally sealing the victory when Kohlschreiber's return landed long, he whacked the ball away in frustration and then whipped another one up into the crowd. Djokovic, who lost in the fourth round of the Miami Open last month, seemed irritable at times and smashed his racket into the ground at 4-2 down in the second set. Later in the second, he lobbed his racket at the ball when retrieving a shot at the baseline and inadvertently sent it into the crowd.

"The positive of today (is) hanging in there, fighting and grinding," the 31-year-old Djokovic said. "In a way it's good I got to spend two-and-a-half hours on the court in my opening match of the clay season. This surface is very demanding physically."

He next faces the winner of a second-round match between American Taylor Fritz and Argentina's Diego Schwartzman.

Also Tuesday, three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka faltered in his second-round match against last year's French Open semifinalist Marco Cecchinato after leading by a set and a break, losing 0-6, 7-5, 6-3 to the Italian.

Wild-card entry Jaume Munar of Spain also went a set and a break up against No. 9 Borna Coric of Croatia, but was beaten 6-7 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-4.

In other second-round play, Argentine Guido Pel-

la downed seventh-seeded Marin Cilic 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, breaking the imposing Croatian's serve eight times.

There was another upset as Italian qualifier Lorenzo Sonego won 7-6 (4), 6-4 against eighth-seeded Russian Karen Khachanov. In remaining first-round matches, 18-year-old Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime won 7-5, 7-6 (5) against Juan Ignacio Londero and next faces No. 3 Alexander Zverev.

Fritz was 6-4, 2-0 ahead against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga when his opponent retired with a lower back injury. Defending champion Rafael Nadal, who is seeking a record-extending 12th title here, is in second-round action Wednesday against Spanish countryman Roberto Bautista Agut. Nadal has not played since pulling out with a right knee injury ahead of his Indian Wells semifinal against Roger Federer. □

Yelich's 3 homers lift Brewers to 10-7 win over Cardinals

By The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Christian Yelich hit three homers, including a pair of three-run shots, and drove in a career-high seven runs to power the Milwaukee Brewers past the St. Louis Cardinals 10-7 on Monday night.

Yelich, the reigning NL MVP, hit his first three-run homer to cap a six-run second inning. After St. Louis tied it with three runs in the sixth, Yelich answered in the bottom half with a towering three-run blast to right off Mike Mayers (0-1).

Yelich capped his night with his eighth homer this season, going deep to lead off the eighth. He also lined out in the first and was walked intentionally in the fourth.

Junior Guerra (1-0) worked 1 2/3 innings for the victory. Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth after allowing Marcell Ozuna's sixth home run to open the inning.

DODGERS 4, REDS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Los Angeles a comeback victory over Cincinnati in Clayton Kershaw's season debut. Raisel Iglesias (0-3) walked pinch-hitter David Freese leading off before Peder-



MILWAUKEE BREWERS' CHRISTIAN YELICH watches his home run against the St. Louis Cardinals during the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, April 15, 2019, in Milwaukee. It was Yelich's third home run of the game.

Associated Press

son homered to right field, pointing into the Dodgers dugout and thumping his chest as he left the box. The Reds had taken a 3-2 lead in the top of the inning on former teammate Matt

Kemp's RBI single. Retired broadcaster Vin Scully got Dodger Stadium buzzing with a surprise pregame appearance to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day.

Kershaw then gave Los Angeles a lift, even though the three-time Cy Young Award winner didn't factor in the decision. Kershaw had been bothered by left shoulder inflammation in spring training. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings. He struck out six and walked none.

Kenley Jansen (1-0) got the win. Former Dodger Yasiel Puig made his presence felt immediately, hammering a two-run shot in the first off Kershaw. Puig received a mix of boos and cheers. The Dodgers lost NL home run leader Cody Bellinger in the third when he got drilled on the right kneecap by a 95 mph pitch from Luis Castillo.

METS 7, PHILLIES 6, 11 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Juan Lagares scored from second base on Michael Conforto's hard grounder in the 11th inning and New York beat Philadelphia.

Lagares led off with an infield single against Pat Neshek (0-1), and Brandon Nimmo walked. Two outs later, Conforto hit a sharp grounder that first baseman Rhys Hoskins couldn't field for an error. The ball trickled to second baseman Cesar Hernandez and Lagares kept running, scoring eas-

ily because the throw was way off target.

Luis Avilan (1-0) pitched out of trouble in the 10th, stranding runners on second and third. Edwin Diaz struck out the side for his sixth save in six tries and his 16th in a row, dating to last season with Seattle.

Noah Syndergaard had a rough outing for the Mets, giving up five runs and nine hits in five innings while fanning nine. Phillies ace Aaron Nola allowed five runs in four innings.

CUBS 7, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Willson Contreras hit his sixth homer, drove in three and reached base four times, and Chicago thawed out to beat Miami.

The temperature in Chicago was 33 when the Cubs' game Sunday against the Angels was snowed out, and it was 84 with the retractable roof open for the first pitch at Marlins Park.

Yu Darvish (1-2) struck out eight in a season-high 5 2/3 innings. He allowed two runs, lowering his ERA to 6.11. Three relievers completed the six-hitter.

Chicago scored three times in the first, and Javier Baez drove in a run with a two-out bloop double in the fifth off Trevor Richards (0-2), who allowed five runs in 4 2/3 innings. □



This is a 2018, file photo showing Carl Edwards Jr. of the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

By JAY COHEN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Major League Baseball is investigating racist messages sent to Chicago Cubs reliever

Carl Edwards Jr. on Instagram this month. Edwards was optioned to Triple-A Iowa after he had trouble with his motion and got off to a tough start this

MLB investigating racist messages sent to Cubs' Carl Edwards

season. Lee Long, Edwards' agent, said the messages came from a couple different people.

"I've known CJ for a long time and while he has mentioned being upset at social-media attacks in the past, the recent incidents are completely beyond normal fan frustration," Long said Tuesday in a statement.

"No player should be expected to bear such personal attacks especially based on the color of their skin."

Theo Epstein, the president of baseball operations for the Cubs, condemned the content of the messages

and said the club supports Major League Baseball's investigation, which was first reported by The Athletic.

"In a sport that celebrates diversity and unites people from all backgrounds, we are appalled anyone claiming to be a fan would send divisive and bigoted insults to a player," Epstein said in a statement.

"Whether spoken, posted or published, this type of reprehensible language and views cannot be tolerated in our game or society."

The 27-year-old Edwards, who is African American, declined comment through a spokeswoman

for the Iowa Cubs. Edwards was selected by Texas in the 48th round of the 2011 draft.

The wiry right-hander was traded to Chicago in the July 2013 that moved Matt Garza to the Rangers. Edwards helped the Cubs win the World Series in 2016. He went 3-2 with a career-low 2.60 ERA in 58 games last year.

Long said in his statement they appreciate the work by the Cubs, Major League Baseball and the players' union in addressing the messages.

He also said Edwards appreciates all the support he gets from Cubs fans. □

Smith homers, drives in 4 in O's 8-1 win over Red Sox

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Dwight Smith Jr. hooked a two-run homer into the first row of seats down the right field line and drove in four, leading Baltimore to victory in Boston's annual Patriots' Day game.

Baltimore salvaged a split of the four-game series. It had lost nine of its previous 11 games and was 4-21 in its last 25 against Boston. Chris Davis also hit a two-run homer — much further into the right field bleachers — and Renato Núñez had three hits with an RBI single.

Dan Straily (1-1) rebounded from a rough debut start with Baltimore, giving up a run on two hits in five innings. He was tagged for five runs and eight hits over 3 1/3 innings by Oakland last week.

Spot starter Hector Vélezquez (0-1) gave up a run in three innings.

RANGERS 12, ANGELS 7

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Joey Gallo homered and grounded a tiebreaking single to the vacant spot at shortstop against the shift, helping Texas beat Los Angeles in Mike Trout's return after missing three games with a groin injury.

Trout, the designated hitter while the club waits a little longer before putting the two-time AL MVP back in center field, went 0 for 2 with three walks.

Shin-Soo Choo, who had three hits, homered leading off the third for his first of the season. Asdrubal Cabrera matched Gallo for the team lead with his fifth homer, a two-run shot for an 11-4 lead in the sixth.

Reliever Kyle Dowdy (1-0) earned his first major league victory, giving up one run on one hit in 2 2/3 innings. Closer Jose Leclerc got his fourth save. Cam Bedrosian (1-1) allowed five of the seven hitters he faced to reach, starting with Elvis Andrus' leadoff double in the fifth.

BLUE JAYS 5, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Teoscar Hernandez hit the go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth inning, giving Toronto a badly needed of-



Baltimore Orioles' Dwight Smith, center, celebrates his two-run home run that also drove in Jonathan Villar, left, as Boston Red Sox catcher Blake Swihart, right, looks away during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Boston, Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press

fensive boost with three hits in a victory over Minnesota. After Martin Perez finished six innings in his first start for the Twins with only one run allowed and Ryne Harper struck out two batters in a perfect seventh, left-hander Adalberto Mejia was summoned for the eighth with all righties due up for the Blue Jays.

Freddy Galvis greeted Mejia with a single, Randal Grichuk doubled for his third hit of the game, and Justin Smoak hit an RBI single. Then Hernandez sent an 0-2 slider from Mejia (0-1) into the second deck for a 5-3 lead.

Sam Gaviglio (1-0) picked up the victory with a scoreless seventh. Joe Biagini pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 4

CHICAGO (AP) — Wellington Castillo atoned for an error with a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Chicago rallied to beat Kansas City.

Castillo's poor throw on Billy Hamilton's steal in the seventh helped set up Whit Merrifield's tiebreaking sacrifice fly. But Castillo came up big after Tim Anderson led off the eighth with a double against Brad Boxberger (0-3), sending an opposite-field drive to right for his first homer of the season.

Manny Bañuelos (1-0) pitched three hitless innings for his first win since 2015, and Alex Colomé worked the ninth for his fourth save

in four chances and No. 100 for his career.

INDIANS 6, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Trevor Bauer allowed one run while pitching into the seventh inning, slumping Jose Ramirez hit his first homer of the season and Cleveland held on late to beat Seattle.

The Indians rebounded from being swept last weekend by Kansas City thanks to another strong outing from Bauer, a key out from reliever Adam Cimber and a couple of big hits off starter Yusei Kikuchi (0-1).

Bauer (2-1) struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings. Cimber, who went to high school in nearby Puyallup and played college ball at

Washington, struck out Mitch Haniger with the bases loaded.

The Mariners rallied for three runs in the eighth on consecutive homers by Edwin Encarnacion and Omar Narvaez to extend Seattle's record streak to 19 games with a long ball to begin the season. Greg Allen made a tremendous diving catch in deep right-center field to end the inning.

Seattle gave away several critical runs in losing its fourth straight. A pair of two-out errors in the ninth by shortstop Tim Beckham helped Cleveland add an insurance run.

Brad Hand closed for his fifth save. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Belief in rebirth is not confined to Buddhism. Few Christians realize the importance of the concept of reincarnation or rebirth in Judaism. The Buddhist and Jewish beliefs are similar in that it is the very subtle, non-material mind that survives death. Since this is the only thing that we can take with us to the future, we need to make the best use of our present life to improve its state. One of the objectives of Buddhist meditation is to stabilize the mind and remove negative imprints in order to avoid uncontrolled, unbalanced rebirths.

In the Christian tradition, there are a number of references to past lives in the New Testament. It is likely that the early church, especially the Celtic Christians, believed in reincarnation. Unfortunately Celtic Christianity was suppressed by the authoritarian continental church at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which confirmed the triumph of formal religion over spirituality.

Rebirth as understood in Hinduism involves a permanent soul, a conscious entity which transmigrates from one body to another. The soul inhabits a given body and at death, the soul casts that body off and goes on to assume another body as a man who might take off one suit of clothing and put on another. The man

remains the same but the clothing is different. In the same way the soul remains the same but the psycho-physical organism it takes up differs from life to life.

Reincarnation is a very old belief and a large fraction of the world population believes it. For example Rene Descartes' statement "What I have said is sufficient to show clearly enough that the extinction of the mind does not follow from the corruption of the body and also to give men the hope of another life after death." in 1641 confirms his belief in reincarnation. About twenty percent of those in the Western World whose religions reject reincarnation nevertheless believe it. According to opinion polls this percentage is rising.

There are two parts to the definition of rebirth; the first means 'reincarnation' while the second part of the definition means 'a revival'. The word 'revival' is similarly interesting having no less than seven meanings. One of the explanations is the recovering of life. Sounds like the process of getting your health back.

In many parts of the world Easter heralds spring as well as the resurrection of Christ. Resurrection is the rising again from the dead, the resumption of life. Many people believe death is our greatest enemy that has conquered all men but Christ. The universal reign of decay and death is called in the Bible "the bondage of corruption" as found in Romans 8:21.

In science decay has come to be recognized as the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This Law is now recognized as a universal law of science, with no known exception ever observed. It says, quite simply that every system tends to become disordered, to run down and eventually to die. Its entropy, which is a measure of disorder, always tends to increase.

True, true, yet on a daily basis in our clinic we see patients slowing down even reversing this disorder. Lack of energy, low sex drive, not sleeping well, losing your enthusiasm for your work and an active home life with children and spouse is

a warning. Even more serious are the majority of people who fall into one or more of categories where they are suffering from: Overweight, High blood pressure, High cholesterol, Diabetes, or arteriosclerosis.

Just as your garage, your child's room or our desks could be in complete disorder, with some time and energy focused on the mess, it can be cleaned up to function better. However, some of us need a little help from our friends to get started on the path. Our clinic offers a holistic or whole-body approach to your body's disorder. Using biocompatible or life-friendly medicine, we help you understand the causes of discomfort and sickness. We first evaluate you as a whole person, not a list of symptoms. After a consultation we might continue the investigation with science based testing as necessary. With the information we receive we begin to help you clean house, removing the useless or harmful materials from your body. Cleansing procedures offered at our clinic such as colon hydro therapy provides a good sanitizing! We then recommend fresh live food and quality supplements to enhance your body's recovery. Finally lifestyle coaching completes the healthy picture.

With every patient who declares that, indeed, they are feeling better we are experiencing a revival; a return to a balanced, healthy state. Instead of accepting the consequences of aging and the disorder caused by degenerative diseases, people are choosing to be reborn, now, into a more healthy life.

Get The Point! The resurrection caught the disciples completely by surprise. There is no indication that they had any hope after Christ's death. In fact, as reported in Luke 24:37 when they did see Him, they were frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost.

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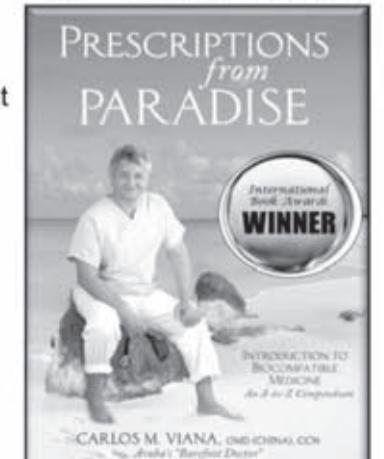
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Can't file or pay taxes on time?

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL

Associated Press

Tax day is coming; but what if you can't file — or pay — your taxes on time?

The IRS said Friday that even with days to go until the deadline, about 50 million taxpayers have yet to file their tax returns. If you are among them, don't despair — there are options.

DON'T DELAY

If you don't think you will be able to complete and file your taxes on time, request an extension.

Filing an extension helps taxpayers avoid penalties for a late return, according to the IRS. You can seek an extension through the IRS website, your tax preparation professional or most tax preparation software companies. While an extension provides more time to file, it does not provide more time to pay any taxes owed.

The deadline to file individual tax returns and pay taxes owed is April 15 for most taxpayers. Because of area holidays, taxpayers who live in Maine or Massachusetts have until April 17.

SPECIAL CASES

Anyone can request an automatic tax-filing extension, but some people get extra time without asking, according to the IRS. Disas-



This Feb. 13, 2019, file photo shows multiple forms printed from the Internal Revenue Service web page that are used for 2018 U.S.

ter victims, those serving in a combat zone and Americans living abroad automatically get more time to file.

Check the IRS website for specific dates but victims of certain federally declared disasters — such as last year's California wildfires, the Alaska earthquake or severe storms in several parts of the U.S. — are allowed to file later and avoid certain penalties. Military service members and

eligible support personnel serving in a combat zone have at least 180 days after they leave the combat zone to file and pay. And U.S. citizens who live and work outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico have until June 17 to meet their tax obligation.

DON'T RUSH

While it's important to heed deadlines, it's also critical not to rush when you file your taxes.

The IRS reminds taxpayers

Associated Press

that mistakes can happen when hurrying to file a tax return. Errors can mean longer processing times and possible tax refund delays. The best way to avoid common mistakes is to file electronically. The IRS estimates that about 70% of taxpayers can file their tax return at no charge by using the IRS Free File software. It also has electronic versions of its forms online for those that do not qualify for Free File.

PAY UP, EVENTUALLY

If you owe money to the IRS but can't afford to pay it at the moment, there's no need to panic, says Lisa Greene-Lewis, CPA and tax expert at TurboTax.

Contact the IRS to ask for an installment agreement when you file your taxes. If you qualify, an installment agreement will allow you to set up a monthly payment plan to pay your federal tax debt off over 6 years. If you're able to pay off your balance within 120 days, the installment plan won't cost you any additional fees. If you file an extension but you choose not to pay what you owe by the tax deadline, the IRS will charge you a failure-to-pay penalty and interest on the taxes you owe them.

Contact the IRS to discuss your payment options at 1-800-829-1040. The agency may be able to provide other forms of relief to help you settle your debts. In some cases, the agency may be able to waive penalties. However, the agency is unable to waive interest charges which accrue on unpaid tax bills.

Do not ignore the problem as failure to file or pay federal taxes can lead to serious and expensive consequences. □

Banks and tech companies lead US stocks to slight gains

By ALEX VEIGA

Associated Press

Stocks were higher on Wall Street in midday trading Tuesday, erasing the market's modest losses from a day earlier.

Gains in financial and technology stocks outweighed losses elsewhere in the market. Progressive climbed 6.2% after its latest quarterly earnings topped analysts' forecasts. Chipmakers were among the big gainers in the technology sector. Advanced Micro Devices rose 2.5%.

Health care stocks lagged the most as traders weighed quarterly earnings from Johnson & Johnson and UnitedHealth Group. The results from both companies topped Wall Street forecasts.



In this April 12, 2019, file photo trader Andrew Silverman, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

Investors are looking to the latest wave of corporate earnings reports for clues on the health of the global economy and the prospects for company profits this year.

Banks kicked off the latest quarterly reporting season

last week with mixed results. Analysts expect the first-quarter results for S&P 500 companies overall to be the weakest in nearly three years.

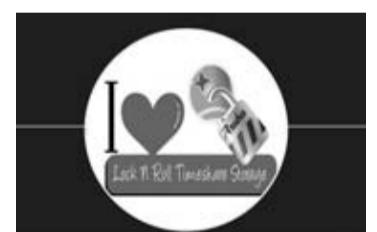
Tuesday's early rebound for U.S. stocks followed gains in markets overseas, which

rallied on upbeat economic data from China and Germany.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 was up 0.1% as of noon Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 60 points, or 0.2%, to 26,445. The Nasdaq composite added 0.3% and the Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks picked up 0.1%. Stock indexes in Asia finished higher. European indexes were headed higher.

ALL ABOUT EARNINGS: Investors will be poring over corporate earnings reports over the next few weeks. Analysts expect companies in the S&P 500 to report a 2.9% drop in earnings per share from a year earlier, which would be the first decline since the spring of 2016. The expected de-

cline is due almost entirely to weaker profit margins. □



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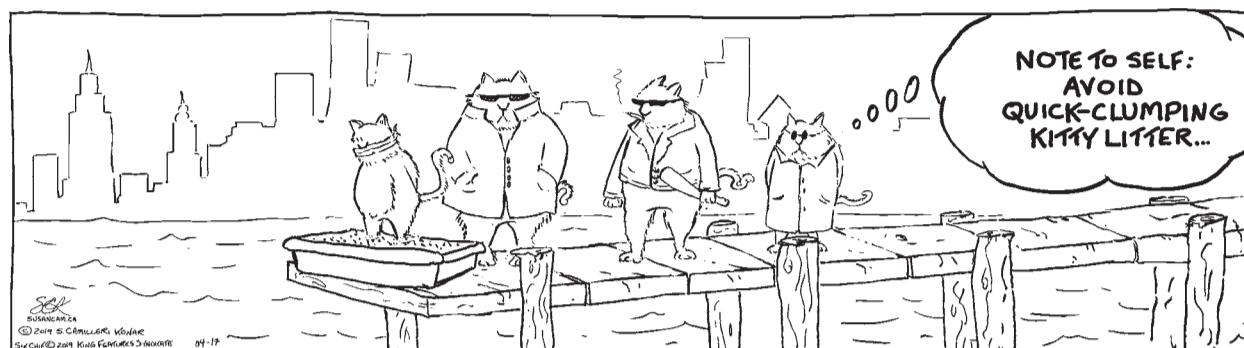
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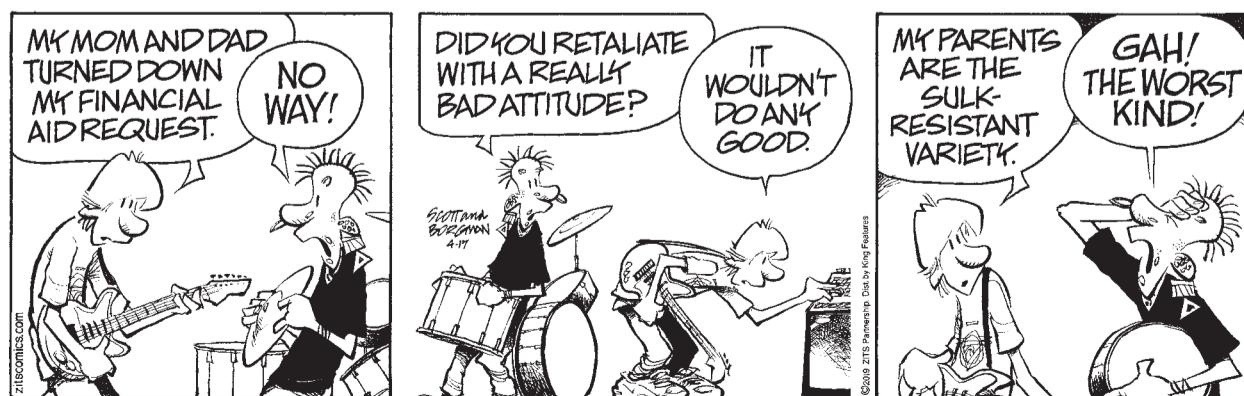
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8	1				4	9
2						3	
7					8		
1					6		
9					5		
5	7	4			2	9	6
8			2	3			1
6		7	4			8	
4	9				7	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	9	4	3	8	6	7	2	5
3	7	8	5	9	2	6	4	1
5	6	2	1	4	7	9	3	8
8	1	3	6	7	5	4	9	2
9	4	6	2	3	8	5	1	7
7	2	5	9	1	4	3	8	6
6	3	1	8	5	9	2	7	4
4	5	9	7	2	1	8	6	3
2	8	7	4	6	3	1	5	9

4/17

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	9	4	3	8	6	7	2	5
3	7	8	5	9	2	6	4	1
5	6	2	1	4	7	9	3	8
8	1	3	6	7	5	4	9	2
9	4	6	2	3	8	5	1	7
7	2	5	9	1	4	3	8	6
6	3	1	8	5	9	2	7	4
4	5	9	7	2	1	8	6	3
2	8	7	4	6	3	1	5	9

ACROSS

1 Antonio, TX
4 Greek letter
9 Part of the foot
13 To boot
14 Severity
15 Hawaiian tourist's dinner
16 Baseball glove
17 Item listed in a recipe
19 Current calendar pg.
20 Throw water on
21 Naps
22 Graduate exams, perhaps
24 Took first place
25 Lawmaking body
27 Coarse-toothed tool
30 Fragrance
31 Idaho exports
33 Fixed charge
35 Emeralds & opals
36 Sherpa or docent
37 Stick around
38 King topper
39 "Home on the ___"
40 Martin or Allen
41 Girl Scout groups
43 Gawked
44 Largest nation: abbr.
45 Docks
46 Runs away
49 Sudden muscle contraction
51 Skirt edge
54 Most drawn-out
56 Long skirt
57 Toy with a string
58 Indignant
59 Eager
60 As straight arrow
61 Baseball's Derek
62 Tennis court divider

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/17/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	R	A	P	A	N	D	A	S	T	A
A	M	E	N	L	U	A	U	S	T	U	B
M	I	L	D	U	N	B	E	A	R	A	E
O	D	E	A	C	T	S	E	B	S	E	N
N	I	C	K	S	V	A	L	C	T	R	Y
C	A	T	H	Y	R	A	R	E	S	T	Y
A	L	E	Y	C	H	A	S	M	T	A	E
L	I	E	D	J	U	I	C	E	B	T	A
B	L	B	G	E	T	T	Y	M	O	P	S
I	S	S	U	S	E	E	B	E	F	R	Y
H	I	P	S	A	N	T	A	S	T	A	Y
S	T	O	D	B	E	N	D	T	W	O	Y
W	O	N	D	E	R	U	N	D	C	H	A
A	G	E	D	P	O	I	S	E	H	E	D
N	O	S	Y	M	U	T	E	D	I	R	K

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4/17/19

DOWN

1 ___ up; err
2 Galileo or Copernicus
3 As likely as ___; probably
4 Orange-and-black bird
5 3 ___ 2 is 1
29 Work with a loom
31 NBA team
32 Sty dweller
34 Open-___; alert
36 Spaces
37 Celebrity
38 "Go ___ kite!", rude dismissal
39 Waken & force to get up
40 Flower stalk

42 The Beaver State
43 Family member
45 Adhesive
46 "Go ___ kite!", rude dismissal
47 Late July babies
48 Popular Irish singer
49 Father children
50 Moss type
52 Way out
53 Prefix for air or night
55 Encyc. vol., perhaps
56 Gent

Classifieds



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2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDROOM \$12500

PLATINUM Season

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Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDROOM \$25k
*WK. 51 GV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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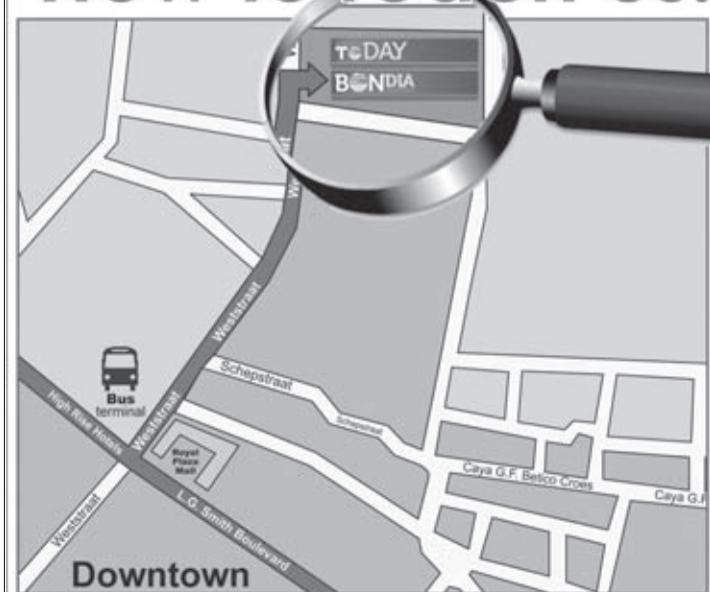
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Celeb or stranger? Study weighs Americans' interest in birds

By MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Whooping cranes, common ravens and peregrine falcons are among the celebrities of the sky in the eyes of Americans, even those who've never laid eyes them.

The ruffed grouse or purple martin? They're like friends you might chat with. The wrentit and the Abert's towhee are like the neighbors you don't talk to much. As for the Hammond's flycatcher and the Brewer's sparrow, Americans don't care much about them at all. That's the word from a new study that aimed to define "a range of relationships between people and birds" across the United States, said Justin Schuetz, one of the authors.

Results appear in a paper released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. Schuetz, a biologist and independent researcher in Bath, Maine, did the work with Alison Johnston, who's affiliated with Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The project included studying Google searches performed from 2008 to 2017 to learn about what Americans think about 621 bird species. Researchers knew where each search came from. They also knew the



In this April 20, 2013 file photo, male Greater Sage Grouse perform their mating ritual on a lake near Walden, Colo.

natural range of each species and how often it is sighted in specific places, based on a national database.

One key question was whether the Google data revealed more interest in each species than one would expect in various locations, based on how often it is sighted in those places. Another question was how much the interest in each species was limited to its natural range, or spilled out beyond it.

So birds in the "celebrity" category are those that attracted more Google attention than one would expect from how often they're seen, and whose popularity extended outside of their natural range. They have "a reputation beyond where they live," Schuetz explained.

Next came the "friends or enemies" category, which included species that get more Google attention than expected, but mostly in the states where they

live. As with the other categories, the researchers couldn't tell whether the researchers' opinions of these familiar birds were positive or negative.

Then came birds classified as "neighbors," whose few Google searches were confined to where they live. Finally there were the "strangers," birds that got little Google interest anywhere.

The research also turned up other insights into what makes a species popu-

Associated Press

lar. Bigger bodies, colorful plumage and regular visits to birdfeeders helped. Species that served as mascots for professional sports teams reached celebrity status, but it wasn't clear whether being a mascot encouraged popularity or the other way around.

The results also turned up some surprises. "People seem to have an inordinate fascination with owls we couldn't account for entirely in our analysis," Schuetz said.

Jeffrey Gordon, president of the American Birding Association, called the study "a fascinating framework for trying to understand how people are relating to birds." "I hope they're able to use it to help people appreciate what's right in their own backyard," he said. "Most of us just aren't keyed in to what is literally at our doorstep."

David Ringer, chief network officer for the National Audubon Society, also found the work interesting. "It's great to see how much we know and love some species, and it's provocative to see how much we still have to discover," he wrote in an email. "I hope that many bird 'strangers' will become 'friends,' and 'neighbors' will turn into 'celebrities.'"



In this March 13, 2019, file photo, Jessie Royer passes icebergs in open water on Norton Sound as she approaches Nome, Alaska, in the Iditarod trail sled dog race.

Associated Press

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Alaska ice melt guessing game ends on earliest date recorded

NENANA, Alaska (AP) —

Early ice melt has provided a record finish to an annual Alaska guessing game that's been going on for 102 years, officials said. The 2019 Nenana Ice Classic finished Sunday at 12:21 a.m. when a tripod mounted on the frozen Tanana River fell over as ice on the river broke up, marking the end of the contest, The Anchorage Daily News reported Sunday.

April 14 is six days earlier than the previous record of April 20 set in 1940 and in 1998, according to the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Residents since 1917 have purchased tickets recording guesses of the exact day and time when the melting ice would separate and cause the marker to fall. The event began as a bet among railroad engineers and has paid out more than \$14 million in its history. This year thousands paid \$2.50 per ticket, with unusually warm spring temperatures across Alaska causing a rush of last-minute purchases.

A store and gas station in Nenana each sold at least 2,000 tickets and ordered extras, according to reports.

A team began monitoring the tripod 24 hours a day

earlier this month, reports said. Crowds gathered Saturday to watch as it became clear the ice would soon break up, the newspaper reported.

The contest's winner will be notified in a few weeks, according to contest officials in the town about 57 miles (92 kilometers) southwest of Fairbanks.

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Why Rachel Chavkin is a rarity on Broadway these days

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As another season on Broadway draws to a big finish, the opening of "Hadestown" marks a milestone of sorts — it's the only new musical directed by a woman, Tony Award-nominee Rachel Chavkin.

While the lack of women at the helm of projects remains a systemic problem in film and television, it also remains on Broadway, despite the theater community embracing inclusion on stage with gender identity and non-traditional casting. But when it comes to directors, there's still a gender imbalance.

"It's pretty shocking," Chavkin recently told The Associated Press at the "Hadestown" press day. "One of the oldest truths is that a woman or artist of color has to prove themselves, not just once, but multiple times, in a way that a special white man or mediocre white man may not have to."

Of the 36 shows currently on Broadway, only three musicals are directed by women. Other than Chavkin's show, there's also Diane Paulus' "Waitress" and Julie Taymor's "The Lion King." Some say the disparity begins right at the origin of



This image released by DKC O&M Co. shows Amber Gray and the cast during a performance of "Hadestown," directed by Rachel Chavkin.

a show, when the director is chosen for the off-Broadway or regional production, and they ride it into Broadway. That was the case for Chavkin as it led to her Broadway debut a few years ago, and her return this season.

"I had the great fortune of coming to Broadway in 2016 with a show, 'Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812,' and that was a show I originally directed in an itty, bitty space," Chavkin.

Then there's the financial component: Broadway shows have a much higher

capitalization, so more is at stake. Producers tend to play it safe by going with people they have already worked with, and an overwhelming majority of those established directors are male.

"We are talking about more money, but as long and as soon as producers realize if someone is doing good work off-Broadway or regionally, they are ready for this next step, I think we will see the Broadway community radically expand with both women and artists of color," Chavkin said. Making inclusion part of the

conversation can bring attention to the problem. In her frustration for leveling the playing field, Chavkin pointed out that those producers and leaders that praise the outspoken voices at awards shows could focus more on attainable solutions, such as gender disparity. "I think that goes to producers putting their money where their mouth is. If they applaud artists who speak out at awards ceremonies against our current administration and its policies, we should see those same producers investing in women and art-

Associated Press

ists of color," Chavkin said. Besides Chavkin, the music and book for "Hadestown," was written by a woman, Anais Mitchell, and the show's lead producer is also a woman, Mara Isaacs.

Isaacs doesn't see the lack of women directing on Broadway as intentional, rather as a by-product of a male-dominated industry. "Even people with the best intentions tend to hire people that look like them," she said. Isaacs strives for a place where talent is the only factor to decide who gets the job. That's what appealed to her about "Hadestown." "I don't think in terms of gender. This group just happens to be the right team," Isaacs said. "I'm never going to hire a woman just because she's a woman."

Victoria Myers, the editor-in-chief of The Interval, an online magazine exploring the role of women in theater, argues there are competent women working off-Broadway who are ready to step up when called upon.

"I would say there are female directors that would do anything on Broadway, and they're ready. You can call them today, and they would be ready," Myers said. □

On 'Social Cues,' Cage the Elephant sound uncaged

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

Cage the Elephant, "Social Cues" (RCA) The new Cage the Elephant album begins with a spacy, otherworldly hum that's interrupted by some throbbing, insistent knocking. That leads to some machine-gun drumming and, as if a door has been opened, an infectious, high-tempo post-punk glam tune comes on. It's the sound of Cage the Elephant finally uncaged. After taking a detour into fuzzy guitars, tambourines and a '60s vibe with 2015's "Tell Me I'm Pretty," the Kentucky alternative rockers have put out arguably their best collection of songs with "Social Cues."



This cover image released by RCA shows "Social Cues," a release by Cage the Elephant.

Associated Press

The band's sound seems more genuine, their strut into personal disorder authentic. Singer Matt Shultz punctuates the opening song, "Broken Boy," with the occasional slurry, cocky "Yeah!" Confidence runs throughout this assured album as if the band has finally found a hard-fought consistency.

Their last album was produced by Dan Auerbach, who seemed to make the band bend toward his sound. "Social Cues" is produced by John Hill, who has let the band explore and play and really just breathe. Broken love is a prominent theme, the product of Shultz's marriage cracking up and lyrics

return to infidelity ("unfaithful friend" and "you sound shifty"). The superb first single, "Ready to Let Go," brings us into a raw moment when a vacation between lovers breaks apart and the singer is "trying to hide this damage done." Shultz isn't angry as much as sorry in the gloomy "What I'm Becoming," singing "I'm so sorry, honey/For what I'm becoming."

But the album isn't completely devoid of hope. "Let the love light guide me home," Shultz sings on the melancholy "Skin and Bones."

There's fatigue in "The War Is Over" but he acknowledges there was "love was on both sides." □

Book offers spirited claim 1999 was film's best ever

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

"Best. Movie. Year. Ever.: How 1999 Blew Up the Big Screen," by Brian Raftery (Simon & Schuster) Everybody's entitled to their opinion, especially when it comes to the movies. Somewhere out there is a person, maybe even two, whose all-time favorite is "The Boy Who Could Fly." So, if culture writer Brian Raftery wants to argue that

1999 was the best movie year ever, let him go for it and enjoy the ride. Similar claims have been made about 1939 ("Gone With the Wind," "The Wizard of Oz," "Stagecoach," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," among others). The staff of The Washington Post recently cited seven different years, including 1939 and 1999. Raftery himself points to 1939 and three years the Post excluded: 1967, 1977

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MON-FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:15
SUN 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

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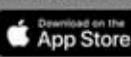
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This photo provided by Simon & Schuster shows the cover of "Best. Movie. Year. Ever.: How 1999 Blew Up the Big Screen," by Brian Raftery.

and 1985.

Let's forget the clickbait title for a moment. Raftery's book works best — and works rather well — as a report on moviemaking as it existed two decades ago. New elbows were being thrown in the age-old struggle of art and commerce, thanks to technology, politics and social divisions. The year 1999 carried itself with an economic swagger, but it strutted in the shadow of the Clinton impeachment and the Columbine massacre — and the looming Y2K

threat. These events had an impact because movies aren't made or viewed in a vacuum.

Raftery's interviews with scores of actors, directors, writers and others power interesting and intriguing backstories about several movies that are pretty darn good and others that are pretty darn forgettable. Funny thing, even if a movie isn't much to look at, how it got to theaters can be engrossing when Raftery teases out a telling anecdote.

Associated Press

What makes a movie year the best ever or even good?

For Raftery, those years are "ones in which film took an almost teleportative leap forward, reinventing and reviving itself in front of our very eyes."

Several movies in 1999 managed to reach that high bar. The year's biggest moneymakers, "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace" revived a cinematic franchise while "The Sixth Sense" heralded a new talent in writer-director M. Night Shyamalan. "American Beauty" won the top awards for its darkly funny and disturbing tale of suburban malaise. Darkly funny could describe "Office Space," too, a box-office disappointment turned cult classic.

"The Blair Witch Project" scared plenty of ticket buyers but may be most notable for its pioneering online marketing. "Fight Club" was an edgy satire about manliness that too few people appreciated at the time, "American Pie" and "Cruel Intentions" helped reboot the teen movie, "The Matrix" had a mind-blowing plot as well as eye-popping special effects, and "Three Kings" and "The Limey" reinvigorated the caper genre. Importantly, "The Best Man" and "The Wood" showed studios that black-themed films could make money, too. □

Kathie Lee Gifford wraps up 11 years with NBC's 'Today' show

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kathie Lee Gifford wrapped up 11 years with NBC's "Today" show Friday with laughs, tears, Scripture and — of course — wine. The 65-year-old host received a standing ovation from the audience after rapper Flo Rida opened the program by singing that the studio was "Kathie Lee's house." Co-host Hoda Kotb credited Gifford for their success, and Gifford said they have fun because



This image released by NBC shows "Today" show hosts Hoda Kotb, left, and Kathie Lee Gifford on the set in New York, Friday, April 5, 2019, on Gifford's last day as co-host.

Associated Press

they have "a very real friendship." Gifford plans to pursue working on movie and

music projects in the next phase of her career. Jenna Bush Hager will join Kotb on the program. □

For Denis and Pattinson, a cosmic connection in 'High Life'

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Claire Denis was guiding Robert Pattinson through a black hole.

The two were on a sound stage in Cologne, Germany, shooting a scene from Denis' space oddity "High Life," while the revered French filmmaker called out descriptions ("Now it splits into a pancake!") of the time-warping imagery Pattinson's character, Monte, might be seeing. Pattinson was having a hard time keeping it together.

"I was literally crying laughing. Everyone else was completely serious and I just had tears streaming down my face," Pattinson recalls. "Splits into a pancake? I was like, 'What are you talking about?'"

"I remember 'spaghetti effect,'" adds Denis with a grin. "The spaghetti effect, it takes place before the pancake effect."

As willing as Pattinson has been to be stretched and contorted by some of the most adventurous directors in film, "High Life" — a cosmic conundrum pulsing with bodily fluids and the infinitude of loneliness — is a new frontier for him. The same could be said for Denis, the enigmatic and revered filmmaker of "Chocolat" and "Beau Travail," who is making her English-language debut in "High Life."

Together, they are a curious, fascinating match that despite their vastly distant origins seem to buzz to a similar frequency.

"I am lazy. I would love to be in bed all the time, to read, to swim, to do nothing. And yet making films is the best thing that happened in my life, with love and sex," says Denis. "There is something special in making movies, especially for a very lazy person. If I was a very performative person, very active, I wouldn't care about making movies. Movies are made for people who want to do nothing."

Pattinson, sitting alongside the director in the Manhattan offices of the film's distributor, A24, cackles

with delight. "I like that," he giggles. "No, I agree. I couldn't agree more."

Yet it took a lot of effort to

his 50s. "High Life" is about a space ship, flying far outside the solar system, populated by a group

Pattinson. "When I was younger, you'd go into to start something and think every single scene needed to be

tion, maybe, and the budget, of course."

"High Life," which expands in theaters nationwide this Friday, is instead about a lot of the things that have coursed through Denis' work: violence, sex, colonialism, isolation, helplessness.

"I have absolutely no abstract ideas," Denis says. "I don't know what I do. I try to do my best. For me, I'm trying to make films without concept. Honestly."

Denis instead conceives of movies instinctually and physically. Bodies and movement are everything, as in the shirtless, desert exercises of the Foreign Legion soldiers of "Beau Travail."

"I remember when I was a child the first time I saw a Western with John Wayne, I had never seen a man behaving with his hips like that. I thought, 'Wow, this is something,'" says Denis.

"I don't see only face. I see a complete person, you know?" she continues. "If you think of silent movies or Westerns or a Murnau movie, especially like 'Tabu,' it's so physical. A film that has only talking faces, for me, it's a little bit like TV. Those actors in silent movies were like great dancers. I think it goes well with a movie."

Seeking that kind of holistic acting was part of what drew Pattinson to Denis. "My main thing in any kind of performance is trying to combat self-consciousness," he says. "It's so much to do with using your whole body. I was also kind of scared of doing it, and didn't really know how to use my own body. A lot of the movies I've done before are quite still."

Maybe what Denis and Pattinson most have in common is a desire to be unconstrained by prescribed contexts: genres, attitudes, expectations. Denis, who's planning to reunite with Pattinson for an adaptation of Denis Johnson's "The Stars at Noon," says she's increasingly interested less in even a film's scene-to-scene cohesion and more in capturing moments, untethered and free. □



This April 4, 2019 photo shows filmmaker Claire Denis, left, and actor Robert Pattinson posing for a portrait to promote their film, "High Life" in New York.

Associated Press

bring them together. Pattinson first sought a meeting with Denis after seeing "White Material," her 2009 film about a coffee plantation in an unnamed African country torn apart by war and colonialism. It was several years later that Pattinson landed a face-to-face, in Los Angeles.

"My agents didn't really see the importance that I had put on it. So when the meeting came through, I was like, 'Whaaaaat?'" says Pattinson, turning to Denis. "You could have been a total (expletive) and I still would have wanted to do the job."

"I am a total (expletive,) by the way," Denis replies. "I was impressed how simple it was to meet with him. How gentle it was. Now, I cannot imagine anyone else as Monte but Robert. Suddenly the film changed. That's it."

When Denis finished the script to "High Life" with Jean-Pol Fargeau, the lead role called for a man in

of convicts plucked from death row. They are guinea pigs for experimentation on black holes by Dr. Dibs (a long-haired Juliette Binoche), who's really using them to try to incubate a baby.

"High Life" wouldn't be made for several more years after their first meeting, a time during which Denis made "Let the Sunshine In," with Juliette Binoche, and Pattinson continued his streak of far-flung indies ("The Lost City of Z," "Good Time," "Damsel"), begun with David Cronenberg's "Cosmopolis." It's been a startling art-house plunge for the actor, one that has surely blown the minds of many a "Twilight" fan.

Like those films, Pattinson leapt into "High Life" purely on faith in the director.

"I remember reading the treatment for the first time and just having no clue. It's so nice to commit to something knowing you're a completely empty vessel at the beginning," says Pat-

worked out."

Pattinson, 32, tends to elicit grins from Denis, 72, when he speaks of his youth like a distant past. After the actor says he was happy it took years to make "High Life" — "I was quite young when we first met. I think I was like 28" — Denis replies, "Yeah, you look so old now."

"I think I actually got bigger or something," says Pattinson. "When I saw the movie, it was one of the first times I was like, 'Oh, it looks like an adult.'"

If it wasn't already abundantly clear, "High Life" is not your typical science fiction film. Denis doesn't even consider it one.

"A lot of science fiction films are about conquest. In that void, that huge universe, there's not many things to fight, unless you do 'Star Wars' and there's an alien living there. But of course this was not the point," says Denis. "Even though I like those stories, I would not have been able to do it for many reasons. My imagina-

Notre Dame hailed as monument to the 'best of civilization'

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Notre Dame, a survivor of wars and revolutions, has stood for centuries as not merely the greatest of the Gothic cathedrals and a towering jewel of Western architecture.

It has stood, in the words of one shell-shocked art expert, as "one of the great monuments to the best of civilization."

And so it was that across the globe Monday, a stunned and helpless art world wept alongside the people of France as a massive fire ravaged the beloved cathedral.

"Civilization is just so fragile," said Barbara Drake Boehm, senior curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval Cloisters branch in New York, her voice shaking as she tried to put into words what the cathedral meant. "This great hulking monument of stone has been there since 1163. It's come through so many trials."

"It's not one relic, not one piece of glass — it's the totality," she said, struggling to find words expansive enough to describe the cathedral's significance. "It's the very soul of Paris, but it's not just for French people. For all humanity, it's one of the great monuments to the best of civilization."

Boehm spoke shortly before the Paris fire chief announced that firefighters had been able to finally save the structure, includ-



This 1987 file photo shows the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Art experts around the world reacted with horror to news of the fire that ravaged cathedral on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press

ing its two main towers. Much of the roof was destroyed.

The exact cause of the blaze wasn't known, but French media quoted the fire brigade as saying it was "potentially linked" to a 6 million euro (\$6.8 million) renovation project on the church's spire and its 250 tons of lead. The Paris Prosecutor's office, which was investigating, said it was treating it as an accident. Construction on Notre Dame — French for "Our Lady" — began in the 12th century and continued for nearly 200 years. It sustained damage and fell into neglect during the French Revolution, but received renewed attention following the 1831 publica-

tion of Victor Hugo's novel "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame." This led to two decades of restorations, including the cathedral's famous flying buttresses and a reconstructed spire.

While most kings were crowned elsewhere, Napoleon Bonaparte made sure he was crowned there in 1804, and married there in 1810.

Experts note that Notre Dame is an aesthetically smooth synthesis of different centuries. "It all blends together so harmoniously," said Nancy Wu, a medieval architecture expert and educator at the Met Cloisters. She said she was struck by delicacy of the structure, as well as that in the three stunning stained-

glass rose windows, and the elegant exterior carvings.

"There are a lot of details that remind one of intricate lace," she said, "even though it's a building of cold hard stone."

Aside from the structure, art experts were concerned about the fate of countless priceless artworks and artifacts inside, including relics like the crown of thorns, which is only occasionally displayed. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo later said on Twitter that the crown of thorns and the tunic of St. Louis were among the artifacts saved.

"This cathedral has a number of elements that are not just famous but religiously significant," said Ju-

lio Bermudez, professor at the school of architecture and planning at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. "One of course is the crown of thorns ... the faithful believe this is the crown that the Savior put on his head. It's kept in a very safe place. But you know the fire is tremendously damaging." He also expressed concern about the beautiful stained-glass windows, which he called "really irreplaceable."

Those worried about the cathedral's durability could, perhaps, take solace in one of Notre Dame's more fascinating survival stories. In 1977, workers demolishing a wall in another part of Paris discovered 21 heads belonging to 13th-century statues from the cathedral.

The heads, which were thought to be lost, are now displayed in the capital's Cluny Museum.

The mourning was not limited to the art world. Religious leaders, too, expressed deep sorrow over the devastation.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, said he was praying for Notre Dame, which he called "second maybe to St. Peter's Basilica, (in) ... the ability of a church to lift our minds and hearts back to the Lord."

"For the French, my God, for the world, Notre Dame Cathedral represents what's most notable, what's most uplifting, what's most inspirational about the human project," he said.

Boehm, at the Cloisters, found herself thinking about how the cathedral is at once of the past, and of the present — a living, vibrant building, despite its age. "When you step inside it, you have at once the sense of everything that came before, and everything that's still current," she said. □



This April 18, 1967, file photo, shows the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Art experts around the world reacted with horror to news of the fire that ravaged cathedral on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Associated Press



In this Friday, June 3, 2016 file photo, a man paints the Notre Dame cathedral surrounded by the flooding Seine river in Paris, France.

Associated Press